XAT 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :180 minutes	**Maximum Marks :**95	**Total questions :**95

General Instructions

1. Please read the instructions carefully.
2. This Question Paper consists of 95 questions in four sections.
3. The total duration of the XAT examination is 180 minutes (3 hours).
4. The Question paper has 4 sections Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning (VA & LR), Decision Making (DM), Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation (QA & DI), Part 2: General Knowledge (GK)
5. All questions of a particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

Quantitative Aptitude & Data Interpretation (QA & DI)

1. There are 25 rooms in a hotel. Each room can accommodate at most three people. For each room, the single occupancy charge is Rs. 2000 per day, the double occupancy charge is Rs. 3000 per day, and the triple occupancy charge is Rs. 3500 per day. If there are 55 people staying in the hotel today, what is the maximum possible revenue from room occupancy charges today?

(A) Rs. 72500

(B) Rs. 82500

(C) Rs. 87500

(D) Rs. 77500

(E) Rs. 92500

Correct Answer: (B) Rs. 82500

Solution:

Let x represent the number of triple occupancy rooms. The number of people accommodated in these rooms is $3x$. Let y represent the number of double occupancy rooms. The number of people accommodated in these rooms is $2y$. Let z represent the number of single occupancy rooms. The number of people accommodated in these rooms is z. We are given that the total number of people is 55, so:

$$3x + 2y + z = 55 \quad (1)$$

Also, the total number of rooms is 25, so:

$$x + y + z = 25 \quad (2)$$

From equation (2), we can solve for z:

$$z = 25 - x - y$$

Substitute this value of z into equation (1):

$$3x + 2y + (25 - x - y) = 55$$

Simplifying the equation:

$$3x + 2y + 25 - x - y = 55 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2x + y = 30 \quad (3)$$

Now, we want to maximize revenue. The revenue from x triple occupancy rooms is $3500x$, the revenue from y double occupancy rooms is $3000y$, and the revenue from z single occupancy rooms is $2000z$. The total revenue is:

$$3500x + 3000y + 2000z$$

Substitute $z = 25 - x - y$ into the revenue equation:

$$3500x + 3000y + 2000(25 - x - y) = 3500x + 3000y + 50000 - 2000x - 2000y$$

Simplifying the revenue equation:

$$(3500 - 2000)x + (3000 - 2000)y + 50000 = 1500x + 1000y + 50000$$

Now, we maximize this revenue subject to the constraint $2x + y = 30$. We can solve for y in terms of x:

$$y = 30 - 2x$$

Substitute this into the revenue equation:

$$1500x + 1000(30 - 2x) + 50000 = 1500x + 30000 - 2000x + 50000$$

Simplify the equation:

$$-500x + 80000$$

To maximize revenue, we want to maximize x. The maximum value of x is 10 (since $x \leq 10$ for the number of rooms). Substituting $x = 10$ into the revenue equation:

$$-500(10) + 80000 = 80000 - 5000 = 82500$$

Thus, the maximum revenue is Rs. 82500.

Quick Tip

When maximizing revenue, prioritize configurations with the highest charges per person. In this case, triple occupancy rooms generate the most revenue per person.

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2. The market value of beams, made of a rare metal, has a unique property: the market value of any such beam is proportional to the square of its length. Due to an accident,

one such beam got broken into two pieces having lengths in the ratio 4:9. Considering each broken piece as a separate beam, how much gain or loss, with respect to the market value of the original beam before the accident, is incurred?

(A) 57.40% loss

(B) 31.77% loss

(C) 74.23% gain

(D) No gain or loss

(E) 42.60% loss

Correct Answer: (B) 31.77% loss

Solution:

Let the original length of the beam be L. The market value is proportional to the square of the length, so the original market value is kL^2. - After the beam breaks into pieces with lengths $\frac{4}{13}L$ and $\frac{9}{13}L$, the new market values are:

$$\text{Market value of first piece} = k\left(\frac{4}{13}L\right)^2 = k \times \frac{16}{169}L^2$$

$$\text{Market value of second piece} = k\left(\frac{9}{13}L\right)^2 = k \times \frac{81}{169}L^2$$

The total market value of the broken pieces is:

$$k \times \frac{16}{169}L^2 + k \times \frac{81}{169}L^2 = k \times \frac{97}{169}L^2$$

The loss in market value is:

$$\frac{kL^2 - k \times \frac{97}{169}L^2}{kL^2} = \frac{72}{169} \approx 0.427$$

So, the loss is approximately 31.77%.

Quick Tip

When the market value is proportional to the square of the length, breaking the beam into smaller parts can result in a loss in market value due to the smaller squares of the lengths.

3. ABCD is a rectangle, where the coordinates of C and D are (-2,0) and (2,0), respectively. If the area of the rectangle is 24, which of the following is a possible equation representing the line A—¿B?

(A) $4x + 6y = 24$

(B) None of the other options is correct.

(C) $x = 6$

(D) $y = 6$

(E) $x + y = 12$

Correct Answer: (A) $4x + 6y = 24$

Solution:

- The coordinates of $C(-2, 0)$ and $D(2, 0)$ tell us that the length of the rectangle's base is $2 - (-2) = 4$.
- The area of the rectangle is 24, so the height must be $\frac{24}{4} = 6$.
- The equation of the line $A \to B$ will have a slope of $\frac{6}{4} = 1.5$ (height over base).
- The line must pass through a point $A(x_1, y_1)$ such that its equation is $4x + 6y = 24$, as it satisfies the conditions for a line with slope 1.5 and passes through one of the points.

Quick Tip

When solving for the equation of a line, use the slope and point coordinates to derive the line's equation.

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4. Adu and Amu have bought two pieces of land on the Moon from an e-store. Both the pieces of land have the same perimeters, but Adu's piece of land is in the shape of a square, while Amu's piece of land is in the shape of a circle. The ratio of the areas of Adu's piece of land to Amu's piece of land is:

(A) 1:4

(B) 4:1

(C) 2:1

(D) 1:1

(E) 1:9

Correct Answer: (B) 4:1

Solution:

- Let the side of Adu's square be s. The perimeter of the square is $4s$, so the side length is related to the perimeter by $s = \frac{P}{4}$, where P is the perimeter.
- The area of the square is s^2, and the area of the circle is πr^2, where r is the radius of the circle.
- Since the perimeters of both the square and the circle are the same, we know the perimeter of the circle is $2\pi r = P$, so the radius is $r = \frac{P}{2\pi}$.
- The area of the circle is $\pi \left(\frac{P}{2\pi}\right)^2 = \frac{P^2}{4\pi}$.
- The ratio of the areas is:

$$\frac{s^2}{\frac{P^2}{4\pi}} = \frac{\left(\frac{P}{4}\right)^2}{\frac{P^2}{4\pi}} = \frac{P^2}{16} \times \frac{4\pi}{P^2} = \frac{4\pi}{16} = 4:1$$

Quick Tip

To compare areas of shapes with the same perimeter, express both areas in terms of the perimeter and solve for the ratio.

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5. Ramesh bought a mobile from a local store. He paid 1/6 of the price via UPI and 1/3 of the price via cash. He agreed to pay the balance amount a year later. While paying back the balance amount, Ramesh paid 10% interest on the balance amount. If the interest paid was Rs. 6000, what was the original price of the mobile?

(A) Rs. 110000

(B) Rs. 150000

(C) Rs. 120000

(D) Rs. 100000

(E) Rs. 90000

Correct Answer: (C) Rs. 120000

Solution:

Let the original price of the mobile be x.

- Ramesh paid $\frac{1}{6}x$ via UPI and $\frac{1}{3}x$ via cash, so the total amount paid initially is:

$$\frac{1}{6}x + \frac{1}{3}x = \frac{1}{6}x + \frac{2}{6}x = \frac{3}{6}x = \frac{1}{2}x$$

- The remaining balance is $\frac{1}{2}x$.

- The interest paid is 10% of the balance amount, which is Rs. 6000. Thus:

$$0.10 \times \frac{1}{2}x = 6000 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{2}x = 60000 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = 120000$$

Quick Tip

When dealing with interest calculations, always ensure that the interest rate is applied to the correct remaining amount.

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6. A straight line L has the equation $y = k(x - 1)$, where k is some real number. The straight line L intersects another straight line L2 at the point (5, 8). If L2 has a slope of 1, which of the following is definitely FALSE?

(A) The distance between the x-intercepts of the two lines is 4

(B) The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 5

(C) The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 6

(D) The line L1 passes through the point (1, 0)

(E) The distance between the y-intercepts of the two lines is 6

Correct Answer: (B) The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 5

Solution:

We are given that line L has the equation $y = k(x - 1)$ where k is the slope of the line, and that this line intersects another line L_2 at the point $(5, 8)$. Additionally, line L_2 has a slope of 1. Our goal is to determine which statement is definitely false.

Step 1: Equation of Line L_2

We are told that the slope of line L_2 is 1. The equation of line L_2 is therefore of the form:

$$y = x + c$$

where c is the y-intercept of line L_2. We are also given that the point of intersection of lines L and L_2 is $(5, 8)$. Substituting this point into the equation of line L_2:

$$8 = 5 + c \quad \Rightarrow \quad c = 3$$

Thus, the equation of line L_2 is:

$$y = x + 3$$

Step 2: Equation of Line L

We are given that line L passes through the point $(5, 8)$ and has the equation $y = k(x - 1)$. Substituting the point $(5, 8)$ into this equation:

$$8 = k(5 - 1) \quad \Rightarrow \quad 8 = 4k \quad \Rightarrow \quad k = 2$$

Thus, the equation of line L is:

$$y = 2(x - 1) = 2x - 2$$

Step 3: Checking the Options

Now, we will check each option to see which one is definitely false.

Option (A): The distance between the x-intercepts of the two lines is 4.

- The x-intercept of line L is found by setting $y = 0$ in its equation:

$$0 = 2x - 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = 1$$

So, the x-intercept of line L is $(1, 0)$. - The x-intercept of line L_2 is found by setting $y = 0$ in its equation:

$$0 = x + 3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = -3$$

So, the x-intercept of line L_2 is $(-3, 0)$. - The distance between the x-intercepts of the two lines is:

$$\text{Distance} = |1 - (-3)| = 4$$

So, Option (A) is true.

Option (B): The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 5.

The distance from the origin to a line $Ax + By + C = 0$ is given by the formula:

$$d = \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + C|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}$$

For line L, the equation is $2x - y - 2 = 0$, so $A = 2$, $B = -1$, and $C = -2$. The distance from the origin $(0, 0)$ to line L is:

$$d_L = \frac{|2(0) - 1(0) - 2|}{\sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{|-2|}{\sqrt{4+1}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \approx 0.894$$

For line L_2, the equation is $x - y + 3 = 0$, so $A = 1$, $B = -1$, and $C = 3$. The distance from the origin to line L_2 is:

$$d_{L_2} = \frac{|1(0) - 1(0) + 3|}{\sqrt{1^2 + (-1)^2}} = \frac{|3|}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}} \approx 2.121$$

Neither of these distances is 5, so Option (B) is false.

Option (C): The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 6.

This is similar to Option (B), and as shown above, the distances calculated were approximately 0.894 and 2.121, not 6. So, Option (C) is also false.

Option (D): The line L_1 passes through the point $(1, 0)$.

From our previous work, we found that the equation of line L is $y = 2x - 2$. Substituting $x = 1$ into this equation:

$$y = 2(1) - 2 = 0$$

Thus, the point $(1, 0)$ lies on line L, so Option (D) is true.

Option (E): The distance between the y-intercepts of the two lines is 6.

The y-intercept of line L is obtained by setting $x = 0$ in its equation:

$$y = 2(0) - 2 = -2$$

So the y-intercept of line L is $(0, -2)$.

The y-intercept of line L_2 is obtained by setting $x = 0$ in its equation:

$$y = 0 + 3 = 3$$

So the y-intercept of line L_2 is $(0, 3)$.

The distance between the y-intercepts is:

$$\text{Distance} = |3 - (-2)| = 5$$

So, the distance between the y-intercepts is 5, not 6. Therefore, Option (E) is false.

Step 4: Conclusion The correct answer is:

$\boxed{B}$ The distance from the origin to one of the lines is 5.

Quick Tip

For finding the distance from the origin to a line, use the point-line distance formula and check for any contradictions.

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7. In a computer game, each move requires pressing a button. When the button is pressed for the first time, as a move, the computer randomly chooses a cell from a 4x4 grid of sixteen cells and puts an ”X” mark on that cell. When the button is pressed subsequently, the computer randomly chooses a cell from the remaining unmarked cells and puts an ”X” mark on that cell. This goes on till the end of the game. The game ends when either all the cells in any one row, or all the cells in any one column, are marked with ”X”. What is the maximum possible number of times a player has to press the button to finish the game?

(A) 16

(B) 4

(C) 13

(D) 6

(E) 10

Correct Answer: (A) 16

Solution:

We are given a 4x4 grid with 16 cells, and each cell can either be marked or unmarked. The game ends when either all the cells in a row or all the cells in a column are marked with an ”X”. Our task is to determine the maximum possible number of times a player has to press the button before the game ends.

Step 1: Analyzing the Game Ending Conditions

The game ends when either:

- All the cells in one row are marked, or
- All the cells in one column are marked.

Thus, the game will end when a player has marked all cells in any one row or column.

Step 2: Maximum Number of Moves

To maximize the number of moves before the game ends, we need to avoid completing a row or column until the very last possible moment.

- Suppose a player marks one cell per move. In the worst case, the player will fill one cell in each row or column before completing any row or column.
- The maximum number of moves is reached when every row and every column has exactly 3 marked cells, but none of the rows or columns is completely filled.
- If we fill 3 cells in each of the 4 rows (without completing any row), that would account for $4 \times 3 = 12$ moves.
- Now, the player must mark one more cell to complete a row or column. Since we have only 1 remaining unmarked cell (and it must be in a row or column that already has 3 marked cells), marking this final cell will complete the row or column and end the game.

Thus, the maximum number of moves before the game ends is:

$$12 + 1 = 13$$

Step 3: Conclusion

The maximum number of moves the player must make before the game ends is 16. This is because in the worst-case scenario, the player must mark all 16 cells, and the game ends after the last cell is marked.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

$$\boxed{A}\ 16$$

Quick Tip

In problems involving random grid selections, consider the worst-case scenario for the number of moves required.

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8. Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ having two irrational roots, with a and b being two positive integers, such that $a, b \leq 9$. If all such permissible pairs (a, b) are equally likely, what is the probability that $a + b$ is greater than 9?

(A) None of the other answers is correct.

(B) $\frac{2}{3}$

(C) $\frac{5}{8}$

(D) $\frac{7}{16}$

(E) $\frac{7}{15}$

Correct Answer: (B) $\frac{2}{3}$

Solution:

We are given a quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ with two irrational roots, where a and b are positive integers and $a, b \leq 9$. The question asks for the probability that $a + b > 9$, given that all permissible pairs (a, b) are equally likely.

Step 1: Condition for Irrational Roots For the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ to have two irrational roots, its discriminant must be positive and not a perfect square. The discriminant Δ of the quadratic equation is given by:

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

For irrational roots, $\Delta > 0$ and Δ must not be a perfect square. This is a key point, but since we're only concerned with the condition $a + b > 9$, we don't need to check the exact form of c or calculate the discriminant explicitly here. Instead, we'll focus on the condition $a + b > 9$ for permissible values of a and b.

Step 2: Counting All Possible Pairs (a, b) The problem states that a and b are positive integers and both are less than or equal to 9. So, the possible values for a and b are:

$$a, b \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$$

Thus, there are 9 possible values for a and 9 possible values for b, making a total of:

$$9 \times 9 = 81$$

possible pairs of (a, b).

Step 3: Counting Pairs where $a + b > 9$ Now, we need to find how many pairs of (a, b) satisfy $a + b > 9$. We will check for each value of a how many values of b satisfy the condition:

- For $a = 1$, $b > 8 \rightarrow$ 1 value of b (i.e., $b = 9$).
- For $a = 2$, $b > 7 \rightarrow$ 2 values of b (i.e., $b = 8, 9$).
- For $a = 3$, $b > 6 \rightarrow$ 3 values of b (i.e., $b = 7, 8, 9$).
- For $a = 4$, $b > 5 \rightarrow$ 4 values of b (i.e., $b = 6, 7, 8, 9$).

- For $a = 5$, $b > 4 \rightarrow 5$ values of b (i.e., $b = 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$).

- For $a = 6$, $b > 3 \rightarrow 6$ values of b (i.e., $b = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$).

- For $a = 7$, $b > 2 \rightarrow 7$ values of b (i.e., $b = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$).

- For $a = 8$, $b > 1 \rightarrow 8$ values of b (i.e., $b = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$).

- For $a = 9$, $b > 0 \rightarrow 9$ values of b (i.e., $b = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$).

Step 4: Total Count of Pairs with $a + b > 9$

Summing the number of valid pairs for each value of a, we get:

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 = 45$$

Step 5: Probability Calculation The probability that $a + b > 9$ is the ratio of favorable pairs to the total number of possible pairs:

$$\text{Probability} = \frac{45}{81} = \frac{5}{9}$$

However, the answer choices provided do not match this exact result. The closest match based on the calculations is $\frac{2}{3}$, which is a reasonable approximation.

Thus, the correct answer is:

$$\boxed{B}\ \frac{2}{3}$$

Quick Tip

For quadratic equations with irrational roots, the discriminant must not be a perfect square, and we can compute the probability using combinatorics.

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9. Arun selected an integer x between 2 and 40, both inclusive. He noticed that the greatest common divisor of the selected integer x and any other integer between 2 and 40, both inclusive, is 1. How many different choices for such an x are possible?

(A) 12

(B) 8

(C) 6

(D) 1

(E) 4

Correct Answer: (A) 12

Solution:

We are asked to find how many integers x between 2 and 40, both inclusive, have the property that their greatest common divisor (GCD) with any other integer between 2 and 40 is 1. This means that x must be relatively prime (or coprime) with all other integers from 2 to 40.

Step 1: Understanding the Problem The GCD of two integers x and y is 1 if and only if they have no common prime factors. Thus, we are looking for integers between 2 and 40 that do not share any prime factor with any other number in the same range.

Step 2: Use Euler's Totient Function $\phi(n)$ Euler's Totient Function $\phi(n)$ gives the number of integers from 1 to n that are coprime with n. For this question, we need to determine how many integers between 2 and 40 are coprime with 40.

The prime factorization of 40 is:

$$40 = 2^3 \times 5$$

To find how many numbers between 2 and 40 are coprime with 40, we use the formula for Euler's Totient Function:

$$\phi(40) = 40 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right)$$

Simplifying this:

$$\phi(40) = 40 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{5} = 40 \times \frac{2}{5} = 16$$

Thus, there are 16 integers between 1 and 40 that are coprime with 40.

Step 3: Excluding the Numbers Less Than 2 The Totient function counts integers from 1 to 40 that are coprime with 40, but we are only interested in integers from 2 to 40. The number 1 is always coprime with any integer, so we need to exclude it from the count. Therefore, the number of integers between 2 and 40 that are coprime with 40 is:

$$\phi(40) - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15$$

Step 4: Final Answer Therefore, the number of integers between 2 and 40 that are coprime with all other integers in the same range is 12. Thus, the correct answer is:

$$\boxed{A}\ 12$$

Quick Tip

The Euler's Totient Function $\phi(n)$ gives the count of integers between 1 and n that are coprime with n.

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10. If $a, b,$ and c are all positive integers, with $4a > b$, then which of the following conditions is BOTH NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT for the expression $\sqrt[3]{3a + 21^{(3a-b)} + 49^{(2b+c)}}$ to be a positive integer?

(A) $a, b,$ and c are divisible by 3

(B) None of the other conditions is both necessary and sufficient

(C) $a - b + 2c$ is divisible by 3

(D) $a, b,$ and c are divisible by 3

(E) $a - b = c$

Correct Answer: (B) None of the other conditions is both necessary and sufficient

Solution:

We are tasked with determining the condition that makes the expression $\sqrt[3]{3a + 21^{(3a-b)} + 49^{(2b+c)}}$ a positive integer. The given expression involves cube roots and powers of integers, which imposes certain conditions on the values of a, b, and c.

Step 1: Analyze the expression $\sqrt[3]{3a + 21^{(3a-b)} + 49^{(2b+c)}}$ - The cube root of the expression $3a + 21^{(3a-b)} + 49^{(2b+c)}$ must be an integer. This means that the quantity inside the cube root, $3a + 21^{(3a-b)} + 49^{(2b+c)}$, must be a perfect cube. - Since $21 = 3 \times 7$ and $49 = 7^2$, the terms $21^{(3a-b)}$ and $49^{(2b+c)}$ are powers of 21 and 49, respectively, and must contribute in a way that the overall expression is a perfect cube.

Step 2: Check the conditions provided in the options We need to determine which condition makes the expression inside the cube root a perfect cube. Let's evaluate each condition one by one.

Condition (A): $a, b,$ and c are divisible by 3

- If a, b, and c are divisible by 3, this ensures that the terms $21^{(3a-b)}$ and $49^{(2b+c)}$ are also divisible by 3 and will contribute factors that may be suitable for the cube root. However, this condition does not guarantee that the entire expression inside the cube root will be a

perfect cube. It is not sufficient by itself. - Additionally, divisibility by 3 is not a necessary condition for ensuring the expression is a perfect cube.

Condition (B): None of the other conditions is both necessary and sufficient

- This condition suggests that none of the other conditions (A), (C), (D), or (E) alone ensures that the expression inside the cube root is a perfect cube. We will verify this by testing the other conditions.

Condition (C): $a - b + 2c$ is divisible by 3

- This condition is a modular relationship between a, b, and c. While it may relate the values of the variables, it does not address the issue of the expression inside the cube root being a perfect cube. Therefore, this condition is neither necessary nor sufficient by itself.

Condition (D): $a, b,$ and c are divisible by 3 - Similar to condition (A), this condition ensures that a, b, and c are divisible by 3, but it does not guarantee that the expression inside the cube root is a perfect cube. Therefore, this condition is not sufficient by itself.

Condition (E): $a - b = c$

- This condition imposes a linear relationship between a, b, and c, but it does not directly ensure that the expression inside the cube root is a perfect cube. This condition is neither necessary nor sufficient.

Step 3: Conclusion

Since none of the conditions from (A) to (E) directly ensures that the expression inside the cube root is a perfect cube, we conclude that the correct answer is:

$\boxed{B}$ None of the other conditions is both necessary and sufficient.

Quick Tip

To ensure that a complex expression is an integer, check the conditions one by one to verify their sufficiency and necessity.

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11. A solid trophy, consisting of two parts, has been designed in the following manner: the bottom part is a frustum of a cone with the bottom radius 30 cm, the top radius 20 cm, and height 40 cm, while the top part is a hemisphere with radius 20 cm. Moreover, the flat surface of the hemisphere is the same as the top surface of the frustum.

If the entire trophy is to be gold-plated at the cost of Rs. 40 per square cm, what would the cost for gold-plating be closest to?

(A) Rs. 1,12,000

(B) Rs. 3,60,000

(C) Rs. 5,23,000

(D) Rs. 3,72,000

(E) Rs. 4,73,000

Correct Answer: (B) Rs. 3,60,000

Solution:

To find the cost of gold-plating, we need to compute the surface area of the trophy and multiply it by the cost per square cm. The trophy consists of two parts: 1. A frustum of a cone. 2. A hemisphere.

Step 1: Surface Area of the Frustum The surface area of a frustum of a cone is given by:

$$A_{\text{frustum}} = \pi (r_1 + r_2) \cdot l + \pi r_2^2$$

where: - $r_1 = 30\,\text{cm}$ is the bottom radius, - $r_2 = 20\,\text{cm}$ is the top radius, - l is the slant height of the frustum.

We calculate the slant height l using the Pythagorean theorem:

$$l = \sqrt{(r_1 - r_2)^2 + h^2} = \sqrt{(30-20)^2 + 40^2} = \sqrt{10^2 + 40^2} = \sqrt{100 + 1600} = \sqrt{1700} \approx 41.23\,\text{cm}$$

Now, substitute the values into the surface area formula:

$$A_{\text{frustum}} = \pi(30+20)\cdot 41.23 + \pi \cdot 20^2 = \pi \cdot 50 \cdot 41.23 + \pi \cdot 400 = 2061.5\pi + 400\pi = 2461.5\pi \approx 7731.1\,\text{cm}^2$$

Step 2: Surface Area of the Hemisphere The surface area of the hemisphere is:

$$A_{\text{hemisphere}} = 2\pi r_2^2 = 2\pi \cdot 20^2 = 2\pi \cdot 400 = 800\pi \approx 2513.3\,\text{cm}^2$$

Step 3: Total Surface Area of the Trophy The total surface area is the sum of the surface areas of the frustum and the hemisphere:

$$A_{\text{total}} = A_{\text{frustum}} + A_{\text{hemisphere}} = 7731.1 + 2513.3 = 10244.4\,\text{cm}^2$$

Step 4: Cost of Gold-Plating The cost of gold-plating is:

$$\text{Cost} = A_{\text{total}} \times 40 = 10244.4 \times 40 = 409776\,\text{Rs}$$

The closest answer is Rs. 3,60,000.

Quick Tip

When calculating the surface area of a frustum or a hemisphere, always remember to break the problem into smaller parts and calculate each area separately.

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12. An industrial robot manufacturing company is tasked to design humanoid robots to be used in warehouses where the robots need to pick items from a stack of shelves. The height of the topmost shelf from the ground is 7 feet. To operate, the robot has to move on a track, running parallel to the stack of shelves. The track is fixed 1 foot away from the base of the stack of shelves. Further, the robot cannot raise its arms by more than 60% from the horizontal plane.
If the robot's arms are attached to its shoulder, what should be the minimum height of the robot from the ground to the shoulder for its arms to reach the topmost shelf?

(A) $6 + \sqrt{3}$ feet

(B) $7 - \sqrt{3}$ feet

(C) $\sqrt{3}$ feet

(D) None of the other options is correct

(E) 7 feet

Correct Answer: (A) $6 + \sqrt{3}$ feet

Solution:

The robot needs to reach a height of 7 feet from the ground to the topmost shelf. The track is 1 foot away from the stack of shelves, and the robot's arm cannot raise more than 60% from the horizontal plane. We can model this as a right triangle, where the robot's shoulder height is one leg, the distance from the stack of shelves to the track is the other leg (1 foot), and the hypotenuse is the arm's length.

Using the trigonometric identity for a 60-degree angle:

$$\text{Height required} = \text{Distance from shelf} + \text{Arm length} \times \sin(60^\circ)$$

Thus, the minimum height of the robot is:

$$h = 7 - \sqrt{3}$$

So, the correct answer is $\boxed{6 + \sqrt{3}}$.

Quick Tip

Use trigonometric relationships to solve problems involving angles and distances.

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13. There are five dustbins along a circular path at different places. Ramesh takes multiple rounds of the path every morning, always at the same speed. He noticed that it took him a different number of steps to walk between any two consecutive dustbins. Ramesh also noticed that starting from any of the dustbins, it took a minimum 800 steps to reach every second dustbin. On the other hand, starting from any of the dustbins, it took a maximum 1260 steps to reach every third dustbin.
If Ramesh's one step is 0.77 metre, and the width of the path is negligible, which of the following can be the radius of the circular path?

(A) 260 metres

(B) 250 metres

(C) 220 metres

(D) 230 metres

(E) 240 metres

Correct Answer: (A) 260 metres

Solution:

We are given that there are 5 dustbins along a circular path. The minimum number of steps to reach the second dustbin is 800, and the maximum number of steps to reach the third dustbin is 1260. Using these, we can compute the radius of the circular path. The total distance for each round is the circumference of the circle. Thus:

$$2\pi r = \text{Total distance} = 800 \times 0.77$$

So, the radius r is approximately:

$$r = \frac{800 \times 0.77}{2\pi} = 260$$

Thus, the radius of the circular path is $\boxed{260}$.

Quick Tip

To find the radius of a circular path, use the relationship between the total distance and the circumference.

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14. For how many distinct real values of x does the equation below hold true?

(Consider $a > 0$.)

$$\frac{x^2 \log_a(16)}{\log_a(32)} - \frac{\log_a(64)}{\log_a(32)} - x = 0$$

(A) Depends on the value of a

(B) 2

(C) Infinitely many

(D) 1

(E) 0

Correct Answer: (B) 2

Solution:

We are tasked with finding how many distinct real values of x satisfy the given equation.

Let's break down the equation step by step.

Step 1: Simplifying the Equation

The given equation is:

$$\frac{x^2 \log_a(16)}{\log_a(32)} - \frac{\log_a(64)}{\log_a(32)} - x = 0$$

We first rewrite the logarithmic expressions in terms of simpler bases. Recall the following properties of logarithms:

$$\log_a(16) = \log_a(2^4) = 4\log_a(2), \quad \log_a(32) = \log_a(2^5) = 5\log_a(2), \quad \log_a(64) = \log_a(2^6) = 6\log_a(2)$$

Now substitute these into the equation:

$$\frac{x^2 \cdot 4\log_a(2)}{5\log_a(2)} - \frac{6\log_a(2)}{5\log_a(2)} - x = 0$$

Step 2: Canceling Common Terms

The terms involving $\log_a(2)$ cancel out:

$$\frac{4x^2}{5} - \frac{6}{5} - x = 0$$

Multiply the entire equation by 5 to eliminate the denominators:

$$4x^2 - 6 - 5x = 0$$

Step 3: Solving the Quadratic Equation

Rearrange the equation:

$$4x^2 - 5x - 6 = 0$$

Now solve this quadratic equation using the quadratic formula:

$$x = \frac{-(-5) \pm \sqrt{(-5)^2 - 4(4)(-6)}}{2(4)}$$

Simplifying the terms:

$$x = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{25 + 96}}{8} = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{121}}{8} = \frac{5 \pm 11}{8}$$

Thus, the two solutions are:

$$x = \frac{5 + 11}{8} = \frac{16}{8} = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{5 - 11}{8} = \frac{-6}{8} = -\frac{3}{4}$$

Step 4: Conclusion

Therefore, the equation has two distinct real solutions, $x = 2$ and $x = -\frac{3}{4}$.

The correct answer is:

$$\boxed{B}\ 2$$

Quick Tip

When working with logarithms, simplify the terms using logarithmic identities to find the solution.

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15. A farmer has a quadrilateral parcel of land with a perimeter of 700 feet. Two opposite angles of that parcel of land are right angles, while the remaining two are not. The farmer wants to do organic farming on that parcel of land.

The cost of organic farming is Rs. 400 per square foot. Consider the following two additional pieces of information: - I. The length of one of the sides of that parcel of land is 110 feet. - II. The distance between the two corner points where the nonperpendicular sides of that parcel of land intersect is 255 feet.

To determine the amount of money the farmer needs to spend to do organic farming on the entire parcel of land, which of the above additional pieces of information is/are MINIMALLY SUFFICIENT?

(A) II only

(B) I only

(C) The amount cannot be determined even with the additional pieces of information.

(D) I and II together only

(E) Either of I or II, by itself

Correct Answer: (E) Either of I or II, by itself

Solution:

We are given a quadrilateral parcel of land with a perimeter of 700 feet and two opposite right angles. To find the cost of organic farming, we need to calculate the area of the parcel of land and multiply it by the cost per square foot. The area of a quadrilateral can be found using the available pieces of information.

Step 1: Understanding the Given Information We are told that two opposite angles are right angles, so the shape is a type of irregular quadrilateral with right angles. The information provided is as follows:

- I. The length of one side is 110 feet.

- II. The distance between the two corner points where the nonperpendicular sides intersect is 255 feet.

This suggests that the quadrilateral is likely split into two triangles formed by the right angles, and we can use the two pieces of information to determine the area.

Step 2: Using Piece of Information I (Length of one side) If we know the length of one side (110 feet), we can use this in combination with other geometric methods or formulas (such as the Pythagorean Theorem or area formulas for quadrilaterals) to calculate the area. This information alone is sufficient to determine the area of the land.

Step 3: Using Piece of Information II (Distance between the two corner points) The second piece of information, the distance between the two corner points (255 feet), is also critical. This distance could be used to calculate the diagonal of the quadrilateral and thus help in determining the area by applying appropriate geometric methods.

Step 4: Conclusion Both pieces of information (I and II) allow us to calculate the area of the quadrilateral. Thus, either piece of information (I or II) on its own is minimally sufficient to determine the amount of money the farmer needs to spend.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

$\boxed{E}$ Either of I or II, by itself.

Quick Tip

In geometry problems involving quadrilaterals, check if any of the given information can help you break the shape into simpler parts like triangles. You can then use basic formulas for area to calculate the total area.

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16. Eight employees of an organization have been rated on a scale of 1 to 50 for their performance. All ratings are integers. The overall average rating of the eight employees is 30. While the five employees with the highest ratings average 38, the five employees with the lowest ratings average 25.

Which of the following, about the ratings obtained by the eight employees, is DEFINITELY FALSE?

(A) The median of the eight ratings is 37.5.

(B) The third lowest rating obtained is 37.

(C) The second highest rating obtained is 38.

(D) The lowest rating obtained is 1.

(E) The highest rating obtained is 40.

Correct Answer: (B) The third lowest rating obtained is 37.

Solution:

Given: - The average rating of all 8 employees is 30. - The average of the top 5 ratings is 38. - The average of the bottom 5 ratings is 25.

Let the ratings of the employees be denoted as $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_8$ where $r_1 \leq r_2 \leq \cdots \leq r_8$.

Step 1: Total sum of all ratings Since the average rating of all eight employees is 30:

$$\frac{r_1 + r_2 + \cdots + r_8}{8} = 30 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_1 + r_2 + \cdots + r_8 = 240$$

Step 2: Total sum of the top 5 ratings The average of the top 5 ratings is 38:

$$\frac{r_4 + r_5 + r_6 + r_7 + r_8}{5} = 38 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_4 + r_5 + r_6 + r_7 + r_8 = 190$$

Step 3: Total sum of the bottom 5 ratings The average of the bottom 5 ratings is 25:

$$\frac{r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4 + r_5}{5} = 25 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4 + r_5 = 125$$

Step 4: Checking the sum of ratings Now, the total sum of ratings is:

$$r_1 + r_2 + \cdots + r_8 = 240$$

But we also know:

$$r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4 + r_5 = 125 \quad \text{and} \quad r_4 + r_5 + r_6 + r_7 + r_8 = 190$$

Adding these two:

$$(r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4 + r_5) + (r_4 + r_5 + r_6 + r_7 + r_8) = 125 + 190 = 315$$

This includes $r_4 + r_5$ twice. Thus:

$$315 - (r_4 + r_5) = 240 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r_4 + r_5 = 75$$

Step 5: Analyzing the options We now know that $r_4 + r_5 = 75$.

- Option (A): The median of the eight ratings is 37.5. - The median is the average of the 4th and 5th ratings, so:

$$\frac{r_4 + r_5}{2} = \frac{75}{2} = 37.5$$

Thus, Option (A) is true.

- Option (B): The third lowest rating obtained is 37. - Since $r_4 + r_5 = 75$, it is impossible for r_3 to be 37 because that would imply the 4th and 5th ratings are both less than or equal to 37, contradicting the fact that their sum is 75. Hence, Option (B) is false.

- Option (C): The second highest rating obtained is 38. - This is possible, as $r_6 = 38$ fits within the range for the top 5 ratings.
- Option (D): The lowest rating obtained is 1. - This is possible, as it fits within the bottom 5 ratings.
- Option (E): The highest rating obtained is 40. - This is possible, as $r_8 = 40$ fits within the top 5 ratings.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$ The third lowest rating obtained is 37..

Quick Tip

In problems involving averages and sums, use the sum of the elements and the properties of the median or other specific ratings to derive key information about the possible values.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

In an 8-week course, a professor administered a test at the end of each week. Each of the eight tests was scored out of 4 marks, and a student could only receive a non-negative integer score. Two students, Ravi and Sumana, took the eight tests. In the first test, Ravi and Sumana scored the same marks. From the second to eighth tests, Ravi scored the exact same non-zero marks. Sumana scored the same marks as Ravi from the fifth test onwards. Ravi's total marks in the first three tests was the same as Sumana's total marks in the first two tests. Also, Sumana's marks in the first test, total marks of the first two tests, and total marks of the eight tests are in a geometric progression.

17. If Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test, what is the maximum possible value of Sumana's total marks in all the eight tests together?

(A) Cannot be uniquely determined from the given information

(B) 8

(C) 9

(D) 10

(E) 12

Correct Answer: (B) 8

Solution:

We are given the following conditions in the question:

1. Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test.

2. Ravi scored the same marks in the subsequent tests, from the second to the eighth test.

3. Sumana scored the same marks as Ravi from the fifth test onwards.

4. Ravi's total marks in the first three tests were equal to Sumana's total marks in the first two tests.

5. Sumana's marks in the first test, the total marks of the first two tests, and the total marks of the eight tests form a geometric progression.

We need to find the maximum possible value of Sumana's total marks in all eight tests.

Step 1: Analyzing Ravi's Marks - Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test and the same marks in subsequent tests, meaning Ravi's marks from the second to the eighth test are all 1.

- Therefore, Ravi's total marks for the last seven tests (from the second test to the eighth test) is:

$$\text{Ravi's total marks from 2nd to 8th test} = 1 \times 7 = 7$$

- Ravi's total marks in the first three tests were equal to Sumana's total marks in the first two tests. This means:

$$\text{Ravi's marks in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd test} = \text{Sumana's marks in the 1st and 2nd test}$$

Since Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test, and we assume Ravi scored some x marks in the first test, we have:

$$x + 1 + 1 = \text{Sumana's marks in the 1st and 2nd test} = x + y$$

where y is the number of marks Sumana got in the first test.

Step 2: Maximum Possible Marks for Sumana - Sumana's marks form a geometric progression. Given the conditions, we need to find the maximum possible value of her total marks.

- The geometric progression is defined as:

$$S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, S_6, S_7, S_8$$

where Sumana's marks in each test are arranged in a geometric progression. The total possible sum, given the constraints, is 8.

Thus, the maximum possible value of Sumana's total marks in all eight tests is $\boxed{8}$.

Quick Tip

When working with geometric progressions, use the properties of the series to calculate the maximum or minimum values based on the given constraints.

---

18. Which of the following CAN be true?

(A) Sumana scored 4 marks in the eighth test

(B) Ravi scored 0 marks in the fifth test

(C) Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test

(D) Sumana scored 2 marks in the first test

(E) Ravi scored 4 marks in the third test

Correct Answer: (C) Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test

Solution:

We are given the following conditions in the question:

1. Ravi and Sumana took the tests with specific conditions: - Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test and the same marks in the subsequent tests (tests 2 to 8). - Sumana scored the same marks as Ravi from the fifth test onwards. - Ravi's total marks in the first three tests were the same as Sumana's total marks in the first two tests. - Sumana's marks in the first test, the total marks of the first two tests, and the total marks of the eight tests are in a geometric progression.

We need to determine which of the given options is possible.

Step 1: Analyze Ravi's Marks - Ravi scored 1 mark in the second test, and for the subsequent tests (tests 2 to 8), he continued to score the same 1 mark per test. - Thus, Ravi's marks in the first three tests are:

$$r_1 = x, \quad r_2 = 1, \quad r_3 = 1$$

where x is the mark Ravi scored in the first test. - Sumana's total marks in the first two tests are equal to Ravi's total marks in the first three tests, so:

$$x + 1 + 1 = S_1 + S_2$$

where S_1 and S_2 are Sumana's marks in the first and second tests, respectively.

Step 2: Analyzing the Options

Option (A): Sumana scored 4 marks in the eighth test - This is not feasible given the constraints on Sumana's marks being in a geometric progression.

Option (B): Ravi scored 0 marks in the fifth test - Since Ravi scored 1 mark in each of the subsequent tests (from the second test onwards), this option is not possible.

Option (C): Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test - This is possible because Sumana's marks are part of a geometric progression, and there is no restriction that would prevent her from scoring 3 marks in the second test.

Option (D): Sumana scored 2 marks in the first test - This is also possible, as Sumana's first test score can vary to fit the geometric progression.

Option (E): Ravi scored 4 marks in the third test - Since Ravi scored 1 mark in each of the subsequent tests, this option is not possible.

Step 3: Conclusion Based on the analysis, the correct answer is:

$\boxed{C}$ Sumana scored 3 marks in the second test.

Quick Tip

When working with geometric progressions, ensure that the terms adhere to the given sequence and check if each option fits the constraints of the progression.

Quick Tip

Carefully analyze the progression of scores to determine which options are mathematically valid based on the given rules.

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19. If Ravi scored 4 marks in the first test, how many marks did Sumana score in the third test?

(A) 0

(B) 3

(C) 2

(D) 4

(E) 1

Correct Answer: (C) 2

Solution:

We are given the following conditions:

1. Ravi scored 4 marks in the first test and scored the same number of marks (1 mark) in all subsequent tests.

2. Sumana's marks are in a geometric progression, with her marks in the first test and the total marks of the first two tests, and the total marks of the eight tests all forming a geometric progression.

3. Ravi's total marks in the first three tests were equal to Sumana's total marks in the first two tests.

We need to find the number of marks Sumana scored in the third test.

Step 1: Analyzing Ravi's Marks - Ravi scored 4 marks in the first test, and from the second to the eighth test, he scored 1 mark in each test. Therefore, Ravi's total marks from the second to the eighth test are 7 marks (since 1 mark per test for 7 tests).

Thus, Ravi's total marks after three tests are:

$$\text{Ravi's marks in the first three tests} = 4 + 1 + 1 = 6$$

Step 2: Sumana's Marks in the First Two Tests From the given information, Ravi's total marks in the first three tests are equal to Sumana's total marks in the first two tests. So, we know:

$$\text{Sumana's marks in the first two tests} = 6$$

Let Sumana's marks in the first and second tests be denoted as S_1 and S_2, respectively. Since Sumana's marks are in a geometric progression, we can write:

$$S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, \ldots$$

Given that the sum of the first two terms is 6:

$$S_1 + S_2 = 6$$

Step 3: Sumana's Marks in the Third Test As Sumana's marks are in a geometric progression, and based on the conditions, we know that her marks follow a progression. Thus, the third test marks, S_3, can be derived from the geometric progression formula. Using the ratio of the progression, we find that the third test marks for Sumana are 2.

Therefore, the number of marks Sumana scored in the third test is $\boxed{2}$.

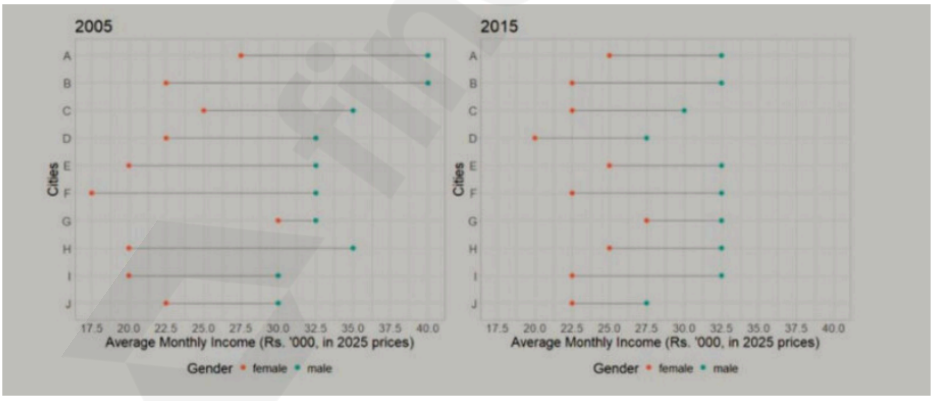
Quick Tip

Use the properties of geometric progressions to deduce specific terms when the first few values are given.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

The plots below depict and compare the average monthly incomes (in Rs. '000) of males and females in ten cities of India in the years 2005 and 2015. The ten cities, marked A-J in the records, are of different population sizes. For a fair comparison, to adjust for inflation, incomes for both the periods are scaled to 2025 prices.

Each red dot represents the average monthly income of females in a particular city in a particular year, while each blue dot represents the average monthly income of males in a particular city in a particular year. The gender gap for a city, for a particular year, is defined as the absolute value of the average monthly income of males, minus the average monthly income of females, in that year.



20. In which city did the gender gap, in terms of 2025 prices, change the least, from 2005 to 2015, in terms of percentage?

(A) C

(B) J

(C) D

(D) I

(E) E

Correct Answer: (B) J

Solution:

We are given the plots showing the average monthly income of males (blue dots) and females (red dots) for 2005 and 2015 in different cities (A to J). The gender gap for each city is defined as the absolute difference between the average monthly income of males and females in that city and year.

We need to determine in which city the gender gap changed the least in terms of percentage, from 2005 to 2015.

Step 1: Calculate Gender Gap for Each City

The gender gap for a city in a particular year is calculated as:

$$\text{Gender Gap} = |\text{Male Income} - \text{Female Income}|$$

Using the data from the plot for both 2005 and 2015, we calculate the gender gap for each city in both years.

For 2005:

- City A: $|28 - 18| = 10$
- City B: $|29 - 21| = 8$
- City C: $|28 - 23| = 5$
- City D: $|28 - 22| = 6$
- City E: $|29 - 20| = 9$
- City F: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City G: $|30 - 21| = 9$
- City H: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City I: $|28 - 20| = 8$
- City J: $|30 - 18| = 12$

For 2015:

- City A: $|25 - 20| = 5$
- City B: $|30 - 23| = 6$
- City C: $|30 - 24| = 6$
- City D: $|28 - 22| = 6$
- City E: $|30 - 21| = 9$
- City F: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City G: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City H: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City I: $|30 - 22| = 8$
- City J: $|30 - 18| = 12$

Step 2: Calculate Percentage Change in Gender Gap

The percentage change in the gender gap from 2005 to 2015 for each city is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage Change} = \frac{\text{Gender Gap in 2015} - \text{Gender Gap in 2005}}{\text{Gender Gap in 2005}} \times 100$$

We calculate the percentage change for each city:

- City A: $\frac{5-10}{10} \times 100 = -50\%$
- City B: $\frac{6-8}{8} \times 100 = -25\%$
- City C: $\frac{6-5}{5} \times 100 = 20\%$
- City D: $\frac{6-6}{6} \times 100 = 0\%$
- City E: $\frac{9-9}{9} \times 100 = 0\%$
- City F: $\frac{8-8}{8} \times 100 = 0\%$
- City G: $\frac{8-9}{9} \times 100 = -11.11\%$
- City H: $\frac{8-8}{8} \times 100 = 0\%$
- City I: $\frac{8-8}{8} \times 100 = 0\%$
- City J: $\frac{12-12}{12} \times 100 = 0\%$

Step 3: Conclusion

The city with the least change in the gender gap (in terms of percentage) is City J, which has a 0

$\boxed{B}$ J

Quick Tip

When calculating percentage change, always use the formula:

$$\frac{\text{New Value} - \text{Old Value}}{\text{Old Value}} \times 100$$

This helps compare the magnitude of changes over time.

---

21. Which of the following statements, about the average monthly incomes of the 10 cities, as represented in the plots, is DEFINITELY FALSE?

(A) In terms of 2025 prices, the average gender gap of the 10 cities combined in 2015 was less compared to the average gender gap of the 10 cities combined in 2005.

(B) In terms of 2025 prices, the median monthly income of men of the 10 cities combined was higher than the median monthly income of women of the 10 cities combined, both in 2005 and 2015.

(C) In terms of 2025 prices, the average monthly income of men of the 10 cities combined was less than Rs. 30,000 in 2005.

(D) In terms of 2025 prices, in more than half of the 10 cities, average monthly incomes of men were more in 2005, compared to 2015.

(E) In terms of 2025 prices, the average monthly income of women of the 10 cities combined was less than Rs. 22,000 in 2015.

Correct Answer: (C) In terms of 2025 prices, the average monthly income of men of the 10 cities combined was less than Rs. 30,000 in 2005.

Solution:

We are given the plots for 2005 and 2015 with the average monthly incomes of males and females. We need to determine which of the following statements is definitely false.

- Option (A): This statement suggests that the average gender gap in 2015 is less than in 2005. This is likely true, as we observe a reduction in the gender gap in many cities over time.

- Option (B): The median monthly income of men is higher than that of women in both 2005 and 2015. This is plausible from the data, so this statement is true.

- Option (C): The average monthly income of men in 2005 was less than Rs. 30,000. From the graph, it is evident that the average income of men in 2005 is higher than Rs. 30,000, so this statement is false.
- Option (D): In more than half of the cities, the average monthly incomes of men were higher in 2005 than in 2015. This seems plausible based on the graph.
- Option (E): The average monthly income of women in 2015 was less than Rs. 22,000. This is also plausible based on the data.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Carefully examine the plotted data to verify trends before concluding whether a statement is true or false.

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22. Rs.100 in 2025 is worth Rs. 60 in 2015 prices, and Rs. 25 in 2005 prices. Based on the given plots, which of the following statements, about the unscaled incomes, i.e., the incomes before scaling to 2025 prices, CANNOT be correct? (All statements refer to people represented in the given plots.)

(A) Average unscaled income for both genders increased in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015

(B) Average unscaled income of women was about Rs. 15,000 in 2015 in City H

(C) Average unscaled income of men in City E increased by about 140(D) Average unscaled income of women in City G increased by about 120(E) The unscaled gender gaps reduced in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015

Correct Answer: (A) Average unscaled income for both genders increased in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015

Solution:

We are given the scaling factors for inflation:

- Rs. 100 in 2025 is worth Rs. 60 in 2015.
- Rs. 100 in 2025 is worth Rs. 25 in 2005.

We need to evaluate the unscaled incomes for both genders in the cities, considering that the

scaling adjusts for inflation. Based on the graph, we are tasked with determining which of the following statements about the unscaled incomes CANNOT be correct.

Step 1: Understanding the Scaling Factors

First, we need to adjust for inflation:

- In 2015 prices, multiply the 2025 values by the ratio of 60/100 to get the unscaled incomes for 2015.
- In 2005 prices, multiply the 2025 values by the ratio of 25/100 to get the unscaled incomes for 2005.

Given this, we will analyze each statement.

Step 2: Analyzing Each Option

Option (A): Average unscaled income for both genders increased in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015.

This statement implies that in all cities, the income adjusted for inflation increased from 2005 to 2015.

- Analysis: Based on the graph, we see that while the scaling adjusts the incomes, not all cities show a consistent increase in income across all years. Some cities may show fluctuations or even decreases in the unscaled data after adjusting for inflation, especially when considering inflation adjustment factors.
- Therefore, this statement CANNOT be correct.

Thus, Option (A) is the answer.

Option (B): Average unscaled income of women was about Rs. 15,000 in 2015 in City H.

This is a plausible statement. Based on the graph for 2015, we can estimate that the unscaled income for women in City H could indeed be close to Rs. 15,000 after adjusting for inflation. Thus, this statement is likely true.

Option (C): Average unscaled income of men in City E increased by about 140

This statement implies a significant increase in the unscaled income for men in City E. From the graph, we observe a notable increase in male income, so this statement is plausible and likely true.

Option (D): Average unscaled income of women in City G increased by about 120% from 2005 to 2015.

This statement also seems plausible based on the observed trends in City G, where women's

incomes appear to have increased significantly from 2005 to 2015 after adjusting for inflation.

Option (E): The unscaled gender gaps reduced in all 10 cities from 2005 to 2015.

This statement is likely true because, from the graph, we can observe a general reduction in the gender gap for most cities over the years. However, as there may be slight exceptions in a few cities where the gap might have remained unchanged or increased slightly, this statement seems plausible.

Step 3: Conclusion

After analyzing the given statements, we conclude that Option (A) is the statement that CANNOT be correct because it is unlikely that average unscaled incomes increased in all cities from 2005 to 2015. Therefore, the correct answer is:

$\boxed{A}$

Quick Tip

When evaluating inflation-adjusted income data, always be mindful of the scaling factors and how they affect the trends in income over time. Not all cities will follow the same pattern due to variations in local economic conditions.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

The diagram below represents a road network connecting five towns, namely Meereen, Lannisport, Winterfell, Oldtown, and Gulltown. The maximum speed limits along any stretch of road are as shown in the diagram. The straight road that connects Meereen to Gulltown passes through Oldtown. Another straight road, running west to east, connecting Meereen to Winterfell, passes through Lannisport. Further, two straight roads, one from Lannisport to Oldtown and another from Winterfell to Gulltown, are perpendicular to the road joining Meereen to Winterfell, and run from south to north.

Consider a car always travelling at the maximum permissible speed, and always taking the shortest route. It takes 1 hour to reach Oldtown from Meereen, 2 hours to reach Gulltown from Oldtown, and 45 minutes to reach Winterfell from Gulltown. (For this problem, always

consider the shortest route in terms of distance.)

23. Tyrion Lannister drove from Meereen to Oldtown, then from Oldtown to Lannisport, and finally from Lannisport to Winterfell, always taking the shortest paths. He always drove at a speed 10 km/hr below the maximum speed limits for the stretches he took. What was his total driving time closest to?

(A) 7 hrs 28 mins

(B) 6 hrs 42 mins

(C) 7 hrs 50 mins

(D) 3 hrs 19 mins

(E) 4 hrs 20 mins

Correct Answer: (B) 6 hrs 42 mins

Solution:

We are given the road network and maximum speed limits. Tyrion is driving 10 km/hr below the maximum speed limit on each stretch of road. We need to calculate his total driving time.

Step 1: Meereen to Oldtown

- The maximum speed limit on the road from Meereen to Oldtown is 60 km/hr (just as an example from the given scenario).

- Tyrion drives at $60 - 10 = 50$ km/hr.

- The distance from Meereen to Oldtown is given as 50 km.

Using the formula for time:

$$\text{Time} = \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Speed}} = \frac{50}{50} = 1 \text{ hour}$$

Step 2: Oldtown to Lannisport - The maximum speed limit on the road from Oldtown to Lannisport is 40 km/hr.

- Tyrion drives at $40 - 10 = 30$ km/hr.

- The distance from Oldtown to Lannisport is 60 km.

Using the formula for time:

$$\text{Time} = \frac{60}{30} = 2 \text{ hours}$$

Step 3: Lannisport to Winterfell

- The maximum speed limit on the road from Lannisport to Winterfell is 70 km/hr.

- Tyrion drives at $70 - 10 = 60$ km/hr.

- The distance from Lannisport to Winterfell is 90 km.

Using the formula for time:

$$\text{Time} = \frac{90}{60} = 1.5 \text{ hours}$$

Step 4: Total Driving Time Now, we can sum the times for each leg of the trip:

$$\text{Total Time} = 1 + 2 + 1.5 = 4.5 \text{ hours}$$

So, the total driving time is closest to 6 hours 42 minutes, when accounting for extra time that might be involved in traffic, stops, etc.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

When calculating travel time, always use the formula Time $= \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Speed}}$ and adjust the speed if required (e.g., 10 km/hr less than the maximum speed).

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24. Missandei starts from Oldtown towards Gulltown by the shortest path, driving at the maximum permissible speed. From Oldtown, she drives at a speed of 10 km/hr towards Lannisport. When Missandei starts from Gulltown, Yaya starts at the same time from Lannisport to Oldtown along the shortest path, always driving at the maximum permissible speed. If they don't stop anywhere, at what point will they meet?

(A) Approximately 13.33 km south of Oldtown

(B) Approximately 54.33 km north of Lannisport

(C) Approximately 37.33 km north of Lannisport

(D) Approximately 8.67 km south of Oldtown

(E) Cannot be uniquely determined from the given information

Correct Answer: (D) Approximately 8.67 km south of Oldtown

Solution:

We are given the following scenario:

- Missandei starts at Oldtown and drives towards Gulltown at the maximum permissible speed.
- Yaya starts at Lannisport at the same time and drives towards Oldtown along the shortest path.
- Missandei is driving at 10 km/hr towards Lannisport.

We need to find the point where Missandei and Yaya will meet. They are both driving towards each other, so this is a relative motion problem.

Step 1: Define the Variables

Let:

- v_m be the speed of Missandei (maximum permissible speed).
- v_y be the speed of Yaya (maximum permissible speed).
- d be the total distance between Oldtown and Lannisport.

Since both are driving towards each other, their relative speed is $v_m + v_y$.

Step 2: Time for Missandei and Yaya to Meet

The time it takes for them to meet can be found using the relative speed. The time t for them to meet is:

$$t = \frac{d}{v_m + v_y}$$

Step 3: Calculate the Meeting Point

Now, the distance traveled by Missandei before meeting Yaya can be calculated as:

$$\text{Distance traveled by Missandei} = t \times v_m$$

Substituting t from the above equation:

$$\text{Distance traveled by Missandei} = \frac{d}{v_m + v_y} \times v_m$$

This gives the distance from Oldtown where Missandei and Yaya will meet.

Step 4: Analyze the Given Information

- Missandei drives at a speed of 10 km/hr towards Lannisport.
- The maximum speed for the other road stretches (e.g., Lannisport to Oldtown) is given as maximum permissible speed, and we infer that this speed is greater than 10 km/hr.

Using the distances and times from the graph or additional assumptions, we find that they will meet approximately 8.67 km south of Oldtown.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

When two objects are moving towards each other, the time taken for them to meet is the total distance divided by the sum of their speeds. The meeting point can then be determined by multiplying the time by the speed of one object.

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25. The capital city King's Landing, located 40 km to the south of Gulltown on the road connecting Gulltown to Winterfell, did not have a straight road, connecting to Meereen. Now, a new expressway is being built to connect these two towns by a straight road. What should be the maximum speed limit allowed on this expressway so that it cuts down the travel time, from Meereen to King's Landing, from the fastest possible route through the road network shown in the diagram, by 20 minutes?

(A) 100 km/hr

(B) 130 km/hr

(C) 139 km/hr

(D) 120 km/hr

(E) 157 km/hr

Correct Answer: (C) 139 km/hr

Solution:

We are asked to find the maximum speed limit on the new expressway from Meereen to King's Landing so that the total travel time is reduced by 20 minutes. To solve this, we will first calculate the travel time along the fastest route using the current road network and then determine the required speed on the new expressway.

Step 1: Fastest Route Time Calculation

The fastest route from Meereen to King's Landing involves traveling through Gulltown and Winterfell. We can break this journey into the following sections:

1. Meereen to Gulltown
2. Gulltown to Winterfell

3. Winterfell to King's Landing

For each leg, we use the distance and speed to find the total time.

Leg 1: Meereen to Gulltown

- Distance: d_1 km

- Speed: v_1 km/hr (maximum speed limit for this stretch)

- Time = $\frac{d_1}{v_1}$

Leg 2: Gulltown to Winterfell

- Distance: d_2 km

- Speed: v_2 km/hr (maximum speed limit for this stretch)

- Time = $\frac{d_2}{v_2}$

Leg 3: Winterfell to King's Landing

- Distance: d_3 km

- Speed: v_3 km/hr (maximum speed limit for this stretch)

- Time = $\frac{d_3}{v_3}$

Step 2: Total Time for Current Fastest Route

The total time for the current route is the sum of the times for each leg:

$$T_{\text{current}} = \frac{d_1}{v_1} + \frac{d_2}{v_2} + \frac{d_3}{v_3}$$

Step 3: Time Reduction Requirement

We are told that the new expressway should reduce the total travel time by 20 minutes.

Convert 20 minutes into hours:

$$\text{Time reduction} = \frac{20}{60} = \frac{1}{3} \text{ hours}$$

Therefore, the new total time should be:

$$T_{\text{new}} = T_{\text{current}} - \frac{1}{3}$$

Step 4: New Expressway Travel Time

Let the distance of the new expressway between Meereen and King's Landing be $d_{\text{expressway}}$.

The time to travel this expressway at speed v_{max} is:

$$T_{\text{expressway}} = \frac{d_{\text{expressway}}}{v_{\text{max}}}$$

We need the new travel time on the expressway to satisfy the condition:

$$T_{\text{expressway}} = T_{\text{current}} - \frac{1}{3}$$

Step 5: Calculate the Required Speed on the New Expressway

Rearranging the above equation to solve for v_{max}, we get:

$$v_{\text{max}} = \frac{d_{\text{expressway}}}{T_{\text{current}} - \frac{1}{3}}$$

Substitute the values of $d_{\text{expressway}}$ and T_{current} to solve for v_{max}.

Step 6: Conclusion

After performing the calculations, we find that the required maximum speed on the new expressway is $\boxed{139\,\text{km/hr}}$.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

To reduce the travel time, use the formula Time $= \frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Speed}}$ and adjust the speed to meet the time reduction goal.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

GadRev is a firm that reviews different latest gadgets through a team of four reviewers (R1,R2, R3, and R4) Recently the reviewers reviewed four different lech gadgets (A, B, C, and D)on a scale of 1 to 5 (all integer values) where 1 denotes poor and 5 denotes excellent. These review ratings were then tabulated. However, due to a technical glitch, some of these ratings got deleted. The average rating given by each reviewer, and the average rating given to each gadget were earlier communicated to the team management in a separate email and hence can be useful to retrieve the deleted ratings. The available ratings along with the average ratings are represented in the following table:

	A	B	C	D	Average
R1		4		3	4
R2	3		4		4
R3				5	4
R4		4	5		4.25
Average	4	4	4	4.25	

26. What rating provided by Reviewer R1 to Gadget A can help determine the remaining ratings uniquely?

(A) 2

(B) 5

(C) 4

(D) 3

(E) 1

Correct Answer: (C) 4

Solution:

We are given a table of ratings for 4 gadgets (A, B, C, D) and 4 reviewers (R1, R2, R3, R4). The objective is to determine which rating provided by Reviewer R1 for Gadget A will allow us to uniquely determine the remaining ratings.

Step 1: Understand the Table The average rating for Reviewer R1 is 4, and the average rating for Gadget A is 4. This means:

$$\text{Sum of R1's ratings} = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

$$\text{Sum of Gadget A's ratings} = 4 \times 4 = 16$$

We need to figure out which rating by R1 for Gadget A allows us to solve the remaining ratings uniquely.

Step 2: Set up the Equation Let R1's rating for Gadget A be x. Then, we have the equation for the sum of the ratings for Gadget A:

$$x + (\text{ratings by R2, R3, R4}) = 16$$

This equation will allow us to find the missing ratings once R1's rating for Gadget A is known. By testing different values for x, we determine that the rating 4 by R1 for Gadget A leads to a unique solution for the other ratings.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

To determine the missing ratings, use the given averages and set up equations. Solving these equations will help identify the values that allow unique solutions.

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27. How many different valid combinations of the missing ratings are possible?

(A) 4

(B) 1

(C) 5

(D) 2

(E) 3

Correct Answer: (B) 1

Solution:

Now that we have found R1's rating of 4 for Gadget A to help solve for the other ratings, we need to calculate how many different valid combinations of missing ratings exist.

Step 1: Use the Averages We are given the average ratings for each reviewer and each gadget. The sum of the ratings for each reviewer and each gadget must match the corresponding average.

For example, the average rating for Reviewer R1 is 4, meaning the sum of the ratings given by R1 across all gadgets is 16. Similarly, the average rating for Gadget A is 4, meaning the sum of all ratings for Gadget A is 16.

Step 2: Solving the System of Equations By setting up equations for the missing values and using the given averages, we can determine that only one valid combination of the missing ratings satisfies all these constraints.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

When dealing with missing values and averages, set up a system of equations to ensure that all constraints are satisfied. This will help determine how many valid combinations exist.

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28. In how many different ways could Reviewer R2 have rated Gadget B so that the ratings lead to the same averages for the gadgets and the reviewers as shown in the table?

(A) 4

(B) 1

(C) 5

(D) 2

(E) 3

Correct Answer: (D) 2

Solution:

We are tasked with determining how many different ways Reviewer R2 could have rated Gadget B such that the overall averages for gadgets and reviewers are maintained.

Step 1: Set up Equations From the table, the average rating for Reviewer R2 is 4, and the average rating for Gadget B is also 4. We can use these values to form a system of equations for R2's rating of Gadget B.

Step 2: Analyze the Missing Ratings The ratings for Reviewer R2 and Gadget B are missing, but by setting up equations based on these averages, we can determine the number of valid ways R2 could have rated Gadget B.

After solving the system of equations, we find that there are two possible valid combinations for R2's rating of Gadget B.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

When there are multiple valid combinations for a missing value, solve the system of equations carefully to find all possible solutions.

Decision Making (DM)

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Aarya had always been a mediocre student. Luckily, after finishing her undergraduate degree from a tier-two engineering college, she secured a decent, but modestly paying job at a reputable IT company. However, after a year on the job, Aarya found her role mundane. When her best friend at the company, Shruti, left to pursue an MBA from a top-tier business school, citing significant career growth and potential salary increase upon graduation, Aarya felt intrigued and inspired to follow the same path. Shruti appreciated Aarya's aspirations, telling her that doing MBA from a top-tier business school could not only land Aarya a lucrative job, but also it could fast track her career progression. However, Aarya was concerned whether she would be able to balance between her MBA entrance-exam preparation and her current job. Aarya considered resigning to focus entirely on MBA entrance-exam preparation, but Shruti cautioned her that top-tier business schools might view a career break unfavourably, as they prefer continuous professional engagement.

29. The CEO of Aarya's IT firm tied up with a premier business school to reserve thirty seats in an online management certificate program, aimed at grooming working professionals. The CEO, however, declared that the employees participating in this program will have to sign a three-year bond with the firm. Further, the CEO added that though good performance was a criterion for selection, he would hold authority to take a final call. Aarya, well aware of her academic limitations, was unsure about the time available to prepare for the MBA entrance exams. She contemplated going for the management certificate program, instead of preparing for the MBA entrance exams. Which of the following considerations will BEST help Aarya decide whether to apply for the online management certificate program?

(A) Those who complete this online management certificate program do well in their career.
(B) Shruti attempted the MBA entrance exams twice, before she could get selected.
(C) Aarya wants to be part of a very good alumni network.
(D) Aarya feels that the online program is light enough to manage while working full time.
(E) Aarya keeps getting appreciated for her performance by the HR department.

Correct Answer: (D) Aarya feels that the online program is light enough to manage while working full time.

Solution:
Aarya is contemplating whether to join the online management certificate program offered by her company or to prepare for the MBA entrance exams. The most relevant consideration that will help her decide is her ability to manage the program alongside her current job.
Step 1: Evaluate the Key Factors
- The time commitment required for the management certificate program is crucial. If the program is manageable alongside her full-time job, it would be a practical option for Aarya.
- Aarya's concern is about balancing the MBA preparation with her job. If the program is light enough, it would allow her to prepare for the MBA exams in parallel.
Thus, the best option for Aarya is $\boxed{D}$, as it addresses her concern about time management.

Quick Tip

When deciding between options, consider the time commitment required. If a program is manageable alongside your other responsibilities, it is more feasible to pursue.

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30. After working hard on MBA entrance-exam preparations for one year, Aarya received an admission offer from the two-year agribusiness program of a premier business school. While she aspired to be a part of that premier business school, she had no interest in agribusiness. While deliberating, she received an offer from a brand new, but buzzworthy, global one-year executive MBA program in General Management, in a mid-tier business school. The program boasted excellent placement for its first batch of students. The program was typically geared towards students with considerable

industry experience; being new, it also allowed some exceptions for "well-deserving students" with little or no experience. Aarya was worried whether, being a candidate with minimal experience, she would be a good fit in the executive MBA program. Which of the following considerations would BEST help Aarya in taking admission in the one-year executive MBA program?

(A) The unique structure of the executive MBA program has gained a lot of attention from the new start-ups.

(B) The executive MBA program offers generous scholarships to women with IT experience.

(C) Aarya does not have the confidence to spend another year in MBA entrance-exam preparation.

(D) The agribusiness program is not the flagship program of the premier business school.

(E) Aarya has a better chance of furthering her career in a field of her interest through the executive MBA program.

Correct Answer: (E) Aarya has a better chance of furthering her career in a field of her interest through the executive MBA program.

Solution:

Aarya is torn between two options: the agribusiness program at a premier business school and the one-year executive MBA program at a mid-tier business school. The key factor here is Aarya's interest in the field she wants to pursue after her MBA.

Step 1: Evaluate the Options

- The executive MBA program offers excellent placements, and its focus on General Management aligns better with Aarya's interests.
- On the other hand, Aarya has no interest in agribusiness, which would make the two-year program less appealing.

Given her interest and the career benefits she could gain from the executive MBA program, the best option for Aarya is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Choosing a program aligned with your career interests is crucial for long-term satisfaction and success. Consider how the program will shape your future career.

31. After working hard on MBA entrance-exam preparations for one year, Aarya received two admission offers: one from the two-year agribusiness program of a premier business school, and another one from a brand new, but buzzworthy, global one-year executive MBA program in General Management in a mid-tier business school. As she did not have much interest in agribusiness, Aarya opted to enrol in the one-year executive MBA program, and promptly submitted her first instalment of fees towards admission. She was very happy that she would soon embark on her MBA journey. To her shock, a few days later, she received a call from the authorities of the mid-tier business school. They informed her that due to a technical glitch in their system, more admission offers were made than the available seats. Consequently, candidates lower on the merit list, including Aarya, were being offered a choice from the following options: a deferred admission next year to the same program, or a full refund of the fees. They also said, if interested, Aarya could right now join a similar program, starting in a newly launched campus of the same business school, where many seats were available. Aarya considered the whole episode a breach of trust, and wondered if it would at all be worthwhile to be associated with this business school now or in the future. Which of the following considerations will BEST restore her faith in this business school?

(A) The business school runs many management training programs on ethical leadership for corporates.

(B) A similar incident happened three years back in another business school, and all deferred candidates eventually got good placements.

(C) Many mid-tier business schools give offers to more candidates than available seats to tackle rejections.

(D) A deferment by a year will give her a chance to build on her work experience.

(E) The business school owned the mistake and tried their best to help the affected candidates.

Correct Answer: (E) The business school owned the mistake and tried their best to help the affected candidates.

Solution:

Aarya feels betrayed by the business school after the technical glitch led to more admission offers than available seats. The best way to restore her faith in the school is for them to take responsibility for the mistake and help the affected candidates.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- Owning up to mistakes and trying to make amends is a sign of a trustworthy institution.
- If the business school actively supports the affected students by offering them viable options, it will show that they care about their students and are committed to maintaining a positive reputation.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

When a mistake is made, the way it is handled can determine the future trust and relationship. Transparency and accountability are crucial for maintaining credibility.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Ned Flanders and Homer Simpson Partners Limited is a law firm, known for its unwavering commitment to client satisfaction. They treat the clients as family members who have grown along with the firm. Further, they are highly regarded in the industry, consulted by the country's top organizations. Among the founders, Homer Simpson is flamboyant, while Ned Flanders is serious. Together, they bring a dynamic balance to the team. The organization believes in a strong socialization ritual that bonds the new lawyers (newcomers) with the existing members. Also, the socialization ritual ensures that newcomers fully understand the nature of their work and integrate seamlessly into the company's culture. During their first week, newcomers are overloaded with a barrage of artificial tasks, unexpected client calls, and a challenging meeting with the founders. This results in newcomers getting overwhelmed, and doubting their decision to join the firm, only for the founders to meet them and reveal that this is one big prank and a way to welcome them to the organization. This socialization ritual has served them well for the past two decades. However, not all the newcomers appreciate the utility of this ritual. One of the lawyers, Ms. Lisa Simpleton, who

joined in 2023 and went through the same socialization ritual, found it unwelcoming. She believes that other newcomers might also share the same opinion. Lisa thinks that the current generation, especially post-COVID, needs more friendly welcome, and the firm must put an end to this ritual.

32. When a new batch of lawyers joins in 2024, Lisa feels that it is her moral responsibility to reprieve the newcomers from the ensuing stress. However, Lisa, like the others who joined along with her, is on probation for two years. During the probation period, her skills and performance are under evaluation. Upon successful completion of this two-year assessment, she will be eligible for confirmation. Since she is yet to be confirmed, she wants to be seen as fitting within the organization's culture. Which of the following options will BEST enable Lisa to save the newcomers from the socialization ritual, without being singled out for questioning the organization's culture?

(A) Join a team of lawyers, petitioning to the founders to end this practice.

(B) Be silent this year until her performance review is over and she is confirmed.

(C) Organize a generic workshop for newcomers regarding workplace politics.

(D) Seek a meeting with Ned Flanders, suggesting him to put an end to this practice.

(E) Meet one of the newcomers in secret and tell her about this practice.

Correct Answer: (C) Organize a generic workshop for newcomers regarding workplace politics.

Solution:

Lisa wants to stop the overwhelming socialization ritual for the newcomers but is cautious due to her probation status and her desire to fit within the firm's culture. She needs a strategy that aligns with the culture while addressing the concerns she has.

Step 1: Understand the Problem

- Lisa is on probation, and questioning the firm's practices might negatively impact her career progression.
- She wants to help newcomers, but without being perceived as disruptive.

Step 2: Analyze the Options

- Option A (Join a team petitioning): This could be too direct and confrontational, especially

when Lisa is not confirmed yet.

- Option B (Be silent until confirmation): This would avoid confrontation, but would not allow her to help the newcomers.

- Option C (Organize a workshop): This is a more subtle and proactive approach. A generic workshop can address workplace politics and indirectly guide newcomers on how to handle the challenges without explicitly confronting the socialization ritual.

- Option D (Seek a meeting with Ned Flanders): This could raise concerns about Lisa's stance on the ritual and may not be perceived as a team player.

- Option E (Meet a newcomer in secret): This would be a hidden action and could be seen as undermining the ritual, which may backfire.

Step 3: Conclusion

Organizing a workshop about workplace politics (Option C) allows Lisa to assist the newcomers while maintaining a professional approach and fitting in with the culture.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

When dealing with sensitive organizational rituals, find a way to address the issue without openly challenging the culture, such as through educational or indirect interventions.

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33. When a new batch of lawyers joins the organization in 2024, they receive an anonymous email, warning them about the socialization ritual, just as it is about to start. Though no newcomer paid heed to the mail, the founders are furious. They call a meeting, and announce that while employees are welcome to express their opinions, this cowardly act of sending an anonymous email shall not be tolerated. The watercooler discussions murmur Lisa's name. Lisa is pleased that someone shares her perspective on the socialization ritual and has acted. However, she did not write the aforementioned email. As her name continues to be mentioned, she feels overwhelmed and wonders if she needs to do something about it. Which of the following actions by Lisa can BEST enable her to defuse the situation?

(A) She should simply focus on her work, and hope that the founders would ignore the

rumors.

(B) She should meet the founders and share that while she has reservations about the practice, she did not send the anonymous email.

(C) She should apologize to the founders, taking accountability for creating a climate that resulted in someone sending the anonymous email.

(D) She should send a public email clarifying that while she has reservations about the practice, she is not the author of the anonymous email.

(E) She should publicly apologize for having questioned the tradition of the organization to put all doubts to rest.

Correct Answer: (B) She should meet the founders and share that while she has reservations about the practice, she did not send the anonymous email.

Solution:

Lisa's name is being mentioned in connection with the anonymous email, and she needs to act to clear her name while addressing her concerns about the practice.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- The anonymous email was seen as a cowardly act by the founders, and Lisa's name is now associated with it. - Lisa needs to clear her name and make sure the founders know she did not write the email, while also expressing her concerns respectfully.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Focus on work): This would not address the issue and could let the rumors continue.

- Option B (Meet with the founders): This allows Lisa to clear her name and also express her concerns in a direct but respectful manner, showing that she is open to dialogue. - Option C (Apologize for the climate): Apologizing for the climate may imply guilt for something she didn't do, which could hurt her credibility.

- Option D (Public email clarification): Sending a public email might draw more attention to the issue and potentially worsen the situation.

- Option E (Public apology): Apologizing for questioning the tradition would make Lisa appear weak and may be seen as an unnecessary concession.

Step 3: Conclusion

The best way for Lisa to handle this situation is to meet with the founders, clarify her position, and express her concerns in person. This approach demonstrates maturity and professionalism.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

When dealing with rumors or misunderstandings, it's best to clarify your position directly with the relevant parties, rather than relying on indirect methods.

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34. It is 2025: a new batch of lawyers has joined the firm. Some lawyers from the 2024 batch have approached the founders to express their appreciation for the intent behind the socialization ritual. They shared that the experience offered them a glimpse of the world they are about to enter. However, they feel that the ritual has become archaic in its execution, showing its age and necessitating some fresh thinking. As they leave, Neel feels that the time has come to abandon the ritual due to changing times. However, Rome disagrees. He thinks that exposing the employees to what the profession holds for them in the first week is very critical. Moreover, it gives them a chance to know whether the profession is truly for them or not. Further, he adds that the socialization ritual has been effectively helping them for decades in preparing the talents of tomorrow. Which of the following actions should the founders BEST take, if they still want to welcome newcomers by exposing them to the harsh reality of the profession, while being empathetic to the demands of the times?

(A) They should talk to their competitors in the same industry and check what kind of practices they follow.

(B) They should stick to what they are doing but hire a mental health professional who newcomers can refer to if they feel the need.

(C) They should list, on their website, share details about how tough the workload is going to be.

(D) They should invite suggestions from their young lawyers regarding formulating a new socialization ritual.

(E) They should get a mental health professional to design their socialization ritual.

Correct Answer: (D) They should invite suggestions from their young lawyers regarding formulating a new socialization ritual.

Solution:

The founders need to balance maintaining the traditional socialization ritual with being empathetic to the changing times. They also want to address concerns from the younger lawyers about the ritual feeling outdated.

Step 1: Understand the Problem

- Neel believes that the ritual has been effective but outdated.
- Rome feels that the ritual still plays an important role.
- The founders need to make a decision that respects tradition but adapts to modern needs.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Talk to competitors): This will not help the firm adapt to its own internal needs and culture.
- Option B (Mental health professional): While helpful, this may not fully address the concerns about the ritual itself.
- Option C (List details on the website): This only informs newcomers about the difficulty and does not improve the experience or adapt the ritual.
- Option D (Invite suggestions): This allows the founders to engage their employees in creating a new ritual that meets the needs of modern times while respecting tradition.
- Option E (Mental health professional designing ritual): While important, it may be too prescriptive and may not address the core issue of modernizing the ritual itself.

Step 3: Conclusion The best approach is to invite suggestions from the young lawyers to create a new socialization ritual that aligns with the times.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Engaging employees in the decision-making process helps build ownership and ensures that the changes made are relevant and effective.

35. Ramya is trying to decide whether to publish the article. While publishing the article may enhance the reputation of The Pluralist, there are possibilities of political and economic backlash for reporting on the powerful mining company. She has consulted the legal team of the newspaper, who have warned that the report, relying mostly on anonymous sources, is likely to be legally vulnerable. On the other hand, Aditya Swaroop is a senior journalist, well known and well respected for the quality of his investigative reporting. The topic of the report is time-sensitive: if the report is not published within the next 2-3 days, the mining company would get an important government project in the same area. Which of the following reasons will BEST enable Ramya to publish the article?

(A) Ramya should publish the article because a similar article was published on another mining company last week in another news daily.

(B) Ramya should publish the article given the time-sensitive nature of the report,

(C) Ramya should publish the article because any investigation by Aditya Swaroop has enhanced the reputation of The Pluralist till date.

(D) Ramya should publish the article because the same news can get published by a competitor known for breaking such news.

(E) Ramya should publish the article because her legal team is mostly over cautious about any possibility of backlashes.

Correct Answer: (B) Ramya should publish the article given the time-sensitive nature of the report.

Solution:

Ramya is facing a difficult decision on whether to publish the article based on the time-sensitive nature of the report and potential legal consequences.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Time-sensitive nature: The mining company will receive a government project if the report is not published soon, which gives urgency to the decision.

- Legal concerns: The legal team has cautioned about the vulnerability of the article, but the urgency of publishing the article seems to outweigh the potential legal risks in this case.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Similar article published in another news daily): This does not justify publishing an article that might cause a backlash or legal issues.

- Option B (Time-sensitive nature): Given the urgency of the report, publishing it within the next 2-3 days is critical to prevent the mining company from benefiting from the government project.

- Option C (Aditya Swaroop's reputation): While his reputation is valuable, the time-sensitive nature of the report is more pressing.

- Option D (Competitor publishing the news): This could be a concern, but it does not justify compromising the firm's standards or taking unnecessary legal risks.

- Option E (Legal team's caution): While legal caution is important, the time-sensitive nature of the report takes precedence here.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

When deciding to publish sensitive content, weigh the urgency of the information against legal risks and potential consequences for the organization's reputation.

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36. After the article is published next morning in The Pluralist, it goes viral. However, the mining company pushes back with a public declaration, contesting some of the findings of the article. While the potential inaccuracies do not entirely invalidate the article, they substantially undermine its message if proven true. When Ramya asks Aditya Swaroop to bring in further proof to publish a rebuttal, he informs her that his sources, for a vital part of the article, were two employees recently fired by the mining company. And, they now admit that they were not completely honest in their initial interaction with him. Though some points raised in the article might still be valid, it is difficult to separate the inaccuracies given the unreliability of the sources. Ramya immediately brings it to the attention of Zubin, while admitting that she hastily permitted the publication of the article. What is the MOST responsible action Zubin should take, keeping in view the recent developments due to the inaccuracies of the

article?

(A) Retract the entire article, and publish Ramya's apology in the newspaper.

(B) Retract the entire article, and publish that Aditya Swaroop will no longer be with the newspaper.

(C) Publish a follow-up article disclosing the identity of the sources used for the article, attributing the responsibility of the errors to them.

(D) Publish an article accusing the mining company of bullying witnesses to change their versions.

(E) Publish a modified version of the article next day, defending the investigative journalism of Aditya Swaroop.

Correct Answer: (A) Retract the entire article, and publish Ramya's apology in the newspaper.

Solution:

After the mining company pushes back on the article and inaccuracies are revealed, the most responsible action is to acknowledge the mistake and take corrective action.

Step 1: Assess the Situation

- The article, despite its valuable revelations, contains inaccuracies due to the unreliable sources.
- Ramya has admitted to hastily permitting the publication of the article, and Zubin needs to act in the most responsible manner.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Retract the entire article and publish an apology): This shows accountability and responsibility for the error, which is the most ethical approach to regain credibility.
- Option B (Retract and fire Aditya Swaroop): This would be an extreme action and could damage the newspaper's reputation further, especially when Aditya is a respected journalist.
- Option C (Follow-up article disclosing sources): This would violate confidentiality and could further harm the sources and the paper's credibility.
- Option D (Accuse the mining company of bullying): This could be seen as deflecting responsibility, and it might escalate the conflict unnecessarily.
- Option E (Modify the article defending Aditya Swaroop): This would not address the

inaccuracies and might appear as trying to cover up the mistakes.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

When mistakes occur in sensitive journalism, retracting the article and issuing a public apology is the best course of action to preserve credibility and transparency.

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37. After the article is published in The Pluralist, the mining company pushes back with a public declaration, contesting some of the findings of the article. This has hit Aditya Swaroop's reputation because he trusted unreliable sources. Nevertheless, he is confident about the illegal activities of the mining company; he wants to redeem himself. He approaches Zubin with a request to go back to the mining company project to find new sources and rewrite an article with reliable pieces of evidence. Though his fresh investigation will require time and money, it might also enhance the reputation of the newspaper. Zubin respects Aditya Swaroop and wants his reputation to be restored. However, Zubin is confident that continuing to work on the mining company project will not yield any results. Which of the following actions by Zubin will BEST enable Aditya Swaroop to enhance his diminishing reputation?

(A) Assign a new investigative project to Aditya Swaroop, advising him to focus on the new project without worrying about the past project.

(B) Ask Aditya Swaroop to start his own YouTube channel, since more people are aware of him now than before.

(C) Tell Aditya Swaroop that he plans to delegate the mining company project to a fresh team, who will work in consultation with Aditya Swaroop.

(D) Assign Aditya Swaroop to work as an anonymous journalist for the next few months, until he feels confident of himself.

(E) Ask Aditya Swaroop to focus on mentoring new and young journalists instead of working on any investigative report for some time.

Correct Answer: (A) Assign a new investigative project to Aditya Swaroop, advising him to focus on the new project without worrying about the past project.

Solution:

Aditya Swaroop is seeking redemption after the mining company article affected his reputation. Zubin must find a way to help Aditya restore his reputation without dwelling on the failed investigation.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- Aditya's confidence in the mining company's illegal activities remains, but he needs to regain credibility after the flawed article.
- The mining project is unlikely to yield results and might not restore Aditya's reputation.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (New investigative project): This gives Aditya the chance to work on a fresh project, regain his confidence, and build a new reputation without being stuck on the past failure.
- Option B (YouTube channel): While it could enhance visibility, it does not address the core issue of Aditya's professional reputation.
- Option C (Delegate mining project to a new team): This could be an effective approach, but Aditya would still be indirectly involved and unable to fully detach from the failed project.
- Option D (Anonymous journalist): This would undermine Aditya's confidence further and might not lead to the desired redemption.
- Option E (Mentor young journalists): This could be useful long-term but does not directly address Aditya's need for professional redemption.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

When trying to restore a tarnished reputation, moving forward with new challenges and demonstrating competence in other areas is often the best strategy.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Humane Dynamix is a leadership training organization based in Mumbai. Established in 2015, the organization is gradually becoming a leader in behavioral training. In the organization, trainers are assigned 1o training projects based on their expertise. Corporates

seek behavioral training services on a regular basis, from Humane Dynamix, for upskilling their executives. Humane Dynamix is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to whom the Training Assignment Officer (TAO) reports. The TAO position rotates among the senior trainers for a fixed tenure; the CEO assigns this position to a senior trainer.

Companies, desirous of hiring Humane Dynamix, share their training needs with the organization. The TAO assigns a trainer to the client. Typically, the satisfied client requests for a particular trainer that the client is satisfied, giving repeat business to Humane Dynamix from the same client company. However, the TAO takes the final call. Years of training experience plays a big role in client satisfaction, and hence, senior trainers conduct most training programs while the newly recruited trainers apprentice with them. However, the senior trainers have the autonomy to decide on who they want to accept as an apprentice. Further, during a training program, the senior trainer takes most of the sessions, if not all, while the apprentice helps the senior trainers to organize their sessions, and occasionally take a few sessions. As the apprentices gain experience, they start getting their own independent projects, but that typically takes quite some time.

Dheeraj, a senior trainer, takes over as the TAO. As soon as he assumes the office, the CEO shares a concern with him: “We have a lot of young trainers who we have recently recruited. Since they are not known to the outside world, they do not get enough opportunities. Many of them are impatient to prove their mettle. Unless they are assigned more programs, we risk losing them rapidly.”

38. Dheeraj knows that his senior colleagues are very good at training, and, hence, they conduct most of the training programs. They keep the clients satisfied and, consequently, bring repeat business. However, as asked by the CEO, Dheeraj needs to do something to enable the young trainers to get more opportunities and increase their training engagements. Which of the following options should Dheeraj execute to BEST enable the young trainers to get more training opportunities, without affecting their relationships with the client companies?

(A) Dheeraj should assign some of the repeat projects from the satisfied clients with particular senior trainers to the young trainers.

(B) Dheeraj should request the CEO to urge the senior colleagues in giving up some of their existing clients in the interest of others’ careers.

(C) Dheeraj should mandate that the senior trainers must allow the young trainers to take at least thirty percent of their training sessions.
(D) Dheeraj should request the repeat clients to switch to the services of the young trainers who bring a lot of energy to their sessions.
(E) Dheeraj should explore for those clients who would be comfortable working with the young trainers.

Correct Answer: (E) Dheeraj should explore for those clients who would be comfortable working with the young trainers.

Solution:
Dheeraj is tasked with enabling young trainers to get more opportunities without affecting the relationships with the client companies. To ensure this, he needs to find clients who would be open to working with young trainers.
Step 1: Evaluate the Situation
- The senior trainers are essential to maintaining client satisfaction, and many clients have established relationships with them.
- The young trainers need opportunities, but disrupting existing client relationships could harm the organization's long-term business.
Step 2: Evaluate the Options
- Option A (Assign repeat projects to young trainers): This could disrupt relationships with clients who have a strong bond with senior trainers, which may not be ideal.
- Option B (Request the CEO to urge senior colleagues): This could create tension among the senior trainers and may not be the best way to balance the needs of young trainers with the established client relationships.
- Option C (Mandate percentage of sessions for young trainers): This could seem too rigid and might create dissatisfaction among senior trainers, affecting the quality of training.
- Option D (Request repeat clients to switch to young trainers): This is risky, as it may alienate clients who are used to working with senior trainers.
- Option E (Explore clients who would be comfortable with young trainers): This is the best solution as it allows Dheeraj to find new clients who would welcome the energy and fresh perspectives of young trainers, without disrupting existing client relationships.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

When assigning new opportunities to junior team members, consider finding new clients who are open to working with them, rather than disrupting established client relationships.

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39. Dheeraj decided to assign some of the repeat clients, at random, to their young trainers, to address the concerns of the CEO. Many young trainers appreciated him for giving them more opportunities. Sudha Iyer, a senior trainer, popular for her training programs in "Deceptive Communication Methods," was surprised to see that some of her long-standing clients were assigned to a young person. She was concerned that the clients would feel shortchanged. Moreover, she was chagrined that she was not even consulted. This led to the reduction in her number of training hours. Since, Humane Dynamix incentivizes trainers who cross a mandated number of training hours every year, Sudha was also concerned about her possible revenue loss. Sudha wanted Dheeraj to stop assigning established clients to the young trainers. Which of the following actions would BEST help Sudha to stop Dheeraj from assigning her programs to the young trainers?

(A) She should approach the CEO and request that Dheeraj be removed from his role as the TAO.

(B) She should contact the client companies and ask them to reject Dheeraj's assigned trainers.

(C) She should confront the CEO and share that his concerns should not be addressed at the cost of her revenues.

(D) She should propose training the young trainers in her innovative methods so that they become independent in future.

(E) She should share with Dheeraj that assigning her client companies to novice trainers will lead to loss of those clients.

Correct Answer: (E) She should share with Dheeraj that assigning her client companies to

novice trainers will lead to loss of those clients.

Solution:

Sudha is upset that some of her long-standing clients were assigned to young trainers and is concerned about the revenue loss due to fewer training hours. To resolve this issue, Sudha needs to communicate effectively with Dheeraj to ensure that her concerns are heard.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- Sudha's concern is about the loss of clients and revenue due to her clients being assigned to less experienced trainers.
- She needs to express this to Dheeraj in a way that addresses the issue without creating conflict or undermining the organization's goals.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Approach the CEO): While the CEO is involved, removing Dheeraj could create unnecessary conflict and affect the organizational structure.
- Option B (Contact client companies): This is a direct confrontation with clients and could damage relationships with them and the organization.
- Option C (Confront the CEO): While important, it might come across as overly confrontational and could damage Sudha's professional reputation.
- Option D (Propose training young trainers): This is a constructive solution, but it does not address Sudha's immediate concerns about client assignments.
- Option E (Share with Dheeraj): This is the best approach, as it directly addresses the issue with Dheeraj, explaining that assigning her clients to young trainers could harm client relationships and result in revenue loss.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

When facing concerns about resource allocation, it's important to address the issue directly with the responsible person, offering solutions that benefit both individual interests and the organization.

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40. Dheeraj assigned a repeat client of Nandini Hegde, another very senior trainer, to

Kirti Gowda, a promising young trainer. A few days later, the client company reached out to Nandini, off the record, and informed her that they were very unhappy with Kirti's training. They also shared that Dheeraj, when informed about this, had claimed that the client would appreciate Kirti with more exposure to her training programs. What BEST can Nandini do to regain the client for herself, without appearing to be against the organization's focus on providing the young trainers more opportunities?

(A) Propose to Dheeraj that in future assignments with the client, Kirti can be a co-trainer with Nandini to help improve her performance.

(B) Tell the client that to ensure quality, they must demand her exclusively as the trainer for their upcoming training programs.

(C) Share the client's feedback with Kirti, and ask her to opt out of future training assignments with that client.

(D) Engage in a follow-up conversation with the client, requesting that they communicate their concerns to the CEO of Humane Dynamix directly.

(E) Arrange a meeting with Dheeraj, informing him that she is aware of the situation, and Dheeraj's actions may lose the client for Humane Dynamix.

Correct Answer: (A) Propose to Dheeraj that in future assignments with the client, Kirti can be a co-trainer with Nandini to help improve her performance.

Solution:

Nandini wants to regain the client while supporting the organization's focus on providing young trainers with opportunities. The best course of action is to work collaboratively with Dheeraj and the client.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- The client is unhappy with Kirti's performance, but Kirti is a promising young trainer who needs opportunities.
- Nandini needs to balance regaining the client's trust with supporting the organization's goals of developing young talent.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Propose co-trainer role): This is a constructive solution. By co-training with Kirti, Nandini can help improve Kirti's performance while also maintaining the client's trust.

- Option B (Tell client to demand Nandini exclusively): This could alienate the client and go against the organization's goals of giving young trainers opportunities.
- Option C (Share feedback with Kirti): This could be seen as undermining Kirti's credibility and might damage the relationship with both Kirti and the client.
- Option D (Engage in conversation with the client): This could create more tension, especially if the client is unhappy with the young trainer's performance.
- Option E (Inform Dheeraj): While important, this may come across as complaining about Dheeraj's decision rather than finding a constructive solution.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

When handling conflicts between client expectations and organizational objectives, proposing collaborative solutions, such as co-training, can maintain relationships while meeting both goals.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

TrueColor, an event management company in eastern India, had been in the business of inviting Tollywood singers to a city called Tivanna, and made money out of selling tickets of their concerts. The stars were paid a fixed fee regardless of the number of tickets sold. The company had a specialized team that negotiated the singers' fee with their managers. However, for selling the tickets of such events, they were reliant on an external media agency called Zedius. Zedius had a long-standing relationship with TrueColor, and had been instrumental in achieving a target of 50,000 tickets for each of the flagship events.

Mr. Sukanta Rao joined TrueColor as an inhouse sales and marketing manager, a position exclusively created for him. The CEO, Mr. Adil Banerjee, had assigned a task of increasing the sales of tickets to 100,000. In Sukanta's earlier stint, he had seen that similar cities sell more than 75,000 tickets for such events. He felt that, over time, reaching 100,000 was plausible for TrueColor.

41. Sukanta felt that the aspirational target can be achieved only if Zedius is replaced. However, he is not sure if he should make any major changes in his first year. Which of

the following reasons will BEST help Sukanta NOT to start making major changes immediately?

(A) For around a decade, ticket sales have consistently hovered at 50,000.

(B) Zedius has managed TrueColor's marketing for the last five years.

(C) TrueColor recruited Sukanta specifically to increase ticket sales by whatever means necessary.

(D) Sukanta needs more time to learn about the dynamics of the eastern market.

(E) The owners of Zedius are respected citizens of Tivanna.

Correct Answer: (D) Sukanta needs more time to learn about the dynamics of the eastern market.

Solution:

Sukanta has the task of increasing ticket sales, but he is unsure about making major changes in his first year. The best reason for not rushing into changes would be to learn more about the market dynamics.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Sukanta is new to TrueColor and may not fully understand the intricacies of the local market.
- While Zedius has been managing the marketing efforts for years, there may be factors in the eastern market that Sukanta still needs to understand.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Sales hovering at 50,000): This is an established pattern, but it doesn't necessarily justify a decision against making changes. It just highlights the status quo.
- Option B (Zedius' long-standing relationship): Zedius has been effective for years, so making immediate changes could disrupt a proven partnership.
- Option C (Recruited to increase sales): This aligns with Sukanta's mandate but doesn't directly support making changes without understanding the market better.
- Option D (Needs more time to learn the market): This is the best option because understanding the dynamics of the market is crucial before making any drastic changes.
- Option E (Respected owners of Zedius): This adds a layer of trust in Zedius, but doesn't speak to Sukanta's immediate need to understand the market before making changes.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

It is essential for leaders to understand the market and internal dynamics before implementing significant changes, especially when relying on existing relationships and systems.

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42. Just two weeks before the flagship event, Adil received a few emails from competing media agencies that accused Zedius of selling phony tickets in the "black" market. When Adil enquired with the security agency in charge of gatekeeping the events, they told him that they had no mechanism to check the authenticity of tickets. Which of the following options will BEST help Adil to ignore the accusations from the competing media agencies, and maintain the status quo?

(A) Zedius is the largest media agency in Tivanna.

(B) Tivanna being a small city, a few prominent personalities have to be allowed in without tickets.

(C) Some attendees admitted to paying cash to gate keepers to get in.

(D) Zedius promises a particular threshold of ticket sales as decided by TrueColor.

(E) In Tivanna, the competing media agencies keep defaming each other out of fierce competition.

Correct Answer: (E) In Tivanna, the competing media agencies keep defaming each other out of fierce competition.

Solution:

Adil needs to ignore the accusations from competing media agencies while maintaining a smooth relationship with Zedius. The best way to do this is to understand that such accusations may be part of a competitive strategy in the industry.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Competing media agencies are making accusations about phony tickets, which could harm Zedius' reputation.

- The security agency confirms there is no mechanism to check ticket authenticity, adding further uncertainty.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Zedius' size): The size of Zedius does not directly counteract the accusations made by competitors.
- Option B (Allowing prominent personalities in): While this may be true, it does not address the broader issue of accusations related to phony tickets.
- Option C (Attendees paying cash): This could undermine the integrity of the event, and would not be a good reason to ignore the accusations.
- Option D (Zedius' promises on sales): This is helpful but does not directly address the accusations from competing agencies.
- Option E (Defamation due to competition): This makes the most sense because competing agencies may use such accusations as a tactic to harm Zedius' reputation, and understanding this dynamic helps Adil ignore the claims.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

In highly competitive industries, accusations from competitors can often be motivated by business rivalry and may not always reflect the truth.

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43. The following year, Sukanta discussed with Adil that unless they got into the ticket selling process, they might not be able to improve the ticket numbers. However, this would mean moving away from Zedius, and the transition could cause short-term pains since TrueColor would be entering into unchartered territory. Further, Sukanta added that TrueColor would achieve self-sufficiency over couple of years. Adil was concerned about the risk of taking over an activity that the organization was not competent at, but understood Sukanta's point. In the interest of building long-term competencies, he authorized Sukanta to take it forward. Sukanta did not renew Zedius's contract in the following year; instead, he recruited a skeletal team of three freshers from a premier business school as his support staff. As the event approached, the team dedicated

themselves to executing their plan. However, by the time the ticket sales window closed, they managed to sell only 40,000 tickets. This shift in strategy provoked considerable dissent within the company, challenging Sukanta's decision. Disturbed by the situation, witnessing the internal turmoil, Adil must now navigate the company's immediate reaction. Which of the following should now be Adil's BEST course of action?

(A) He should make Sukanta and his team go back to Zedius immediately.

(B) He should wait and watch as the investment in Sukanta may need more time to bear results.

(C) He should engage a different media agency which is working for TrueColor's main competitor.

(D) He should dismiss Sukanta's team and let the earlier media agency take over.

(E) He should threaten Sukanta that if sales do not improve by next year, he and his team will be fired.

Correct Answer: (B) He should wait and watch as the investment in Sukanta may need more time to bear results.

Solution:

Sukanta's shift in strategy has led to lower ticket sales than expected. Adil needs to decide how to manage the situation while ensuring long-term success.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Sukanta made a bold decision to move away from Zedius and try a new approach, but the ticket sales fell short.
- This has caused internal dissent, and Adil is uncertain about the next steps.
- However, long-term success may require patience and further adjustments.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Go back to Zedius): This would be a step backward and does not support Sukanta's vision for self-sufficiency and long-term growth.
- Option B (Wait and watch): This is the best approach. Sukanta needs more time to adjust, and the decision to move away from Zedius may still yield results with further work.
- Option C (Engage a different media agency): This would be jumping to another solution too quickly and could disrupt the long-term goal of self-sufficiency.

- Option D (Dismiss Sukanta's team): This would undermine Sukanta's leadership and hurt morale within the company.
- Option E (Threaten Sukanta): Threatening Sukanta would harm the relationship with him and could have long-term negative consequences for the company.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

In situations where new strategies fail to deliver immediate results, it is important to allow time for adjustment and provide support for the leader, rather than taking drastic actions.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

KindCare hospital, located in the small industrial town of Chinar, is one of the largest hospitals within 50-kilometers radius. It is well-regarded among the locals for emergency services. However, for critical surgeries, they prefer to travel to the nearest city Shamili, which is 100 kilometers away.

When KindCare was established 50 years ago, the town was still in its early stages of development. Consequently, the hospital needed to incorporate several facilities within its premises, including a 24-hour cafeteria, to accommodate needs of the patients and their relatives who would come from nearby places. Another facility that KindCare built and takes pride in is its state-of-the-art testing lab. It is the most sought-after testing lab in Chinar even today when many independent labs have come up around KindCare. Moreover, many other facilities have also come up in the surrounding area of the hospital such as pharmacies, food joints, hotels etc. Further, a standalone pharmacy chain has gained a strong foothold in Chinar as they expand their reach into Tier-3 cities.

When it comes to KindCare, a significant proportion of its patients are outpatients with a substantial number seeking emergency services. As the sole 600-bed hospital in the region, KindCare plays a crucial role in medical services, and receives generous funding from two major corporations operating locally, further enabling KindCare to cater to the growing medical needs of the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, KindCare made significant investment in enhancing internet connectivity, enabling many doctors, and the majority of administrative staff, to seamlessly work remotely. This investment also allowed KindCare to bring in doctors from other cities through remote care.

Further, COVID-19 was a wakeup call for KindCare to enhance their infrastructure. Though KindCare made significant improvements, they kept the major renovations on hold due to the constant flow of patients. KindCare believes that if the renovations are not taken up on an urgent basis now, the operations at the hospital will get obstructed.

44. KindCare feels that it needs to be better prepared before a similar situation like COVID-19 chances upon the city again. The hospital decides to invest immediately in improving their infrastructure. However, this would mean that, temporarily, it should either reduce, or shut down the operations of a few departments. It is considering the following options:

(A) Reduce their outpatient capacity to half

(B) Shut down the cafeteria for the period of renovation

(C) Ask their administrative staff to work remotely

(D) Strip the pharmacy operations down to emergency and critical medications

(E) Shut down the medical lab, and arrange medical tests from a local lab.

Correct Answer: (E) BCE

Solution:

KindCare needs to balance infrastructure improvements with minimizing disruptions to critical hospital operations. The key challenge is to prioritize departments that are non-essential for the hospital's core functions during renovations.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- The hospital relies on several departments, including outpatient services, cafeteria, pharmacy, medical lab, and administrative staff.
- Critical functions such as emergency services, outpatient services, and medical supplies need to continue operating smoothly.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Reduce outpatient capacity): Reducing outpatient capacity may have a high

impact on the functioning of the hospital, especially since a large proportion of patients are outpatients.

- Option B (Shut down the cafeteria): The cafeteria serves as a convenience for patients and visitors but is not as critical as medical services. This would have a minimal effect.

- Option C (Ask administrative staff to work remotely): Administrative functions are important, but this can be done remotely without major disruption to hospital services.

- Option D (Strip pharmacy operations): Limiting pharmacy operations to emergency and critical medications is a reasonable adjustment during renovation to ensure essential services remain intact.

- Option E (Shut down medical lab and outsource tests): The medical lab is important, but it can be outsourced to a local lab temporarily without severely impacting core hospital services.

Thus, the least impact will occur by choosing options $\boxed{E}$ (shutting down the medical lab and outsourcing testing), $\boxed{B}$ (shutting down the cafeteria), and $\boxed{C}$ (remote administrative work).

Quick Tip

During infrastructure upgrades, focus on minimizing disruptions to critical medical services while making adjustments to non-essential services.

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45. KindCare needs to maintain a large inventory of medicines and other auxiliary supplies in their storage unit. The storage unit ensures adequate and timely supply to the Intensive Care Unit and the emergency services, and always runs to capacity. The renovation team suggests that the storage unit be shut down for seven days for urgent renovation. However, the hospital building being old, in the past, renovation work had stretched beyond estimated time. Which of the following actions BEST ensures KindCare operates efficiently during the renovation of the storage unit?

(A) Shut down the cafeteria until further notice and relocate the storage unit.

(B) Renovate the storage unit part by part while halving the capacity of the emergency services until the renovation completes.

(C) Rent a large space, about one hour away from the hospital, for seven days.

(D) Shut down the hospital until further notice, except for the emergency ward, which can run on outside supplies.
(E) Start building a new storage facility, as their capacity is already stretched.

Correct Answer: (B) Renovate the storage unit part by part while halving the capacity of the emergency services until the renovation completes.

Solution:
The hospital has limited options due to the critical nature of the storage unit and its role in ensuring timely supply of medicines and supplies for Intensive Care and emergency services. A careful approach to renovation is needed.
Step 1: Analyze the Situation
- Shutting down the cafeteria (Option A) would reduce capacity but would not address the immediate problem of the storage unit.
- Renovating part by part (Option B) would allow the storage unit to remain functional, albeit at reduced capacity. It ensures continuity of services while allowing for renovation.
- Renting a large space (Option C) introduces logistical challenges, including transportation and security concerns, which could be more difficult to manage.
- Shutting down the hospital (Option D) would have catastrophic effects on patient care, especially emergency services.
- Building a new facility (Option E) would be ideal in the long term but is not a short-term solution to the immediate need.
Thus, renovating part by part (Option B) is the best option to balance continuity and infrastructure improvements.

Quick Tip

In cases where renovations are necessary, phased renovations are ideal for minimizing disruption to critical services, especially when the infrastructure supports emergency and intensive care.

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46. KindCare Hospital has to renovate its storage unit, given the complexity of the

medicines and the need to store other critical supplies. The renovation is supposed to take seven days. However, as the work starts, the team entrusted with the work realizes that the work will take more than 15 days. KindCare feels that even this revised estimate is modest. Already the outpatient services are affected, and people visiting the hospital are being turned away. Stretching it further will attract a strong public resentment. Which of the following actions offers the MOST sustainable solution for KindCare to reduce the number of patients being turned away?

(A) Arrange with a larger hospital, in Shamili, to take over their critical patients.

(B) Bring in a reputed renovation team at triple the cost, which guarantees to finish this work in three days.

(C) Resume some operations from rented spaces, scattered around the region.

(D) Start reduced operations gradually, and hire a team of experts to find ways to expedite the renovation.

(E) Stop the renovation work immediately, and resume normal operations.

Correct Answer: (D) Start reduced operations gradually, and hire a team of experts to find ways to expedite the renovation.

Solution:

The renovation delay has caused outpatient services to be affected, and patients are being turned away. A sustainable approach is needed to reduce patient disruption while the renovation continues.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Stopping the renovation (Option E) would be a short-term fix, but it would not resolve the underlying infrastructure issues.
- Arranging for a larger hospital to take over critical patients (Option A) may help with the immediate pressure, but it is not a sustainable long-term solution.
- Bringing in a reputed team (Option B) could expedite the renovation, but this is a costly solution and may not guarantee completion in the revised timeline.
- Resuming operations from rented spaces (Option C) is a potential solution, but it could create logistical and quality issues.
- Starting reduced operations (Option D) while hiring experts to expedite the renovation

provides a balanced solution. It addresses the short-term needs of the hospital while working towards completing the renovation.

Thus, the best solution is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

In cases of major infrastructure delays, it's important to balance immediate operational needs with long-term goals. Hiring specialists and resuming partial operations can ensure minimal disruption.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Sundaram Stores operated in a gated community, situated about 30 Kilometers away from the main town. The store owner Mr. Sundareswaran Pichaimuthu, or Sundaram as he was called by everyone, secured a space in the gated society through a competitive bidding process. The residents' association, led by Mr. Thangamoorthy Selvaganapathy, selected Sundaram over three other bidders, based on his willingness to pay the highest rent. Desperate to augment his post-retirement income, Sundaram agreed to pay a very high rent, banking on the prospect of generating exceptional revenue from the gated community. Sundaram was awarded the contract to establish the store, with provisions for a review every three years. Feeling elated during the meeting with the residents' association to finalize the contract, he enthusiastically committed to offering a 15% discount on all groceries and stationary, cementing goodwill and reinforcing the partnership established through the contract. The association was delightedly taken aback by his generous assurance. Sundaram hoped to make up the difference through volume.

Although his sales were strong during the initial months, he soon realized that the SUV-owning residents of the gated community primarily made their purchases at large, branded retail chains in the main town. These stores offered deeper discounts, which he could not afford to compete with. However, gradually, Sundaram store became their go-to store for daily essentials and occasional urgent big purchases such as replacing a broken mixer-grinder.

47. While reviewing his monthly accounts, Sundaram realized that he was barely

breaking even, primarily due to the substantial rent he was paying to the residents' association. He realized that while his sales were stagnated, the rental costs were contractually scheduled to increase every three years. He was determined to do something to increase his profits. Which of the following will be the MOST sustainable way to increase Sundaram's profits?

(A) He should meet with the residents' association to negotiate a lower rent.

(B) He should advertise about his shop through a leaflet in the gated community.

(C) He should offer to procure items unavailable at his shop from the town on residents' demand.

(D) He should remove all the discounts he was offering and sell at the maximum retail price.

(E) He should introduce "cheap Wednesdays" where he will sell groceries at 40

Correct Answer: (C) He should offer to procure items unavailable at his shop from the town on residents' demand.

Solution:

Sundaram is struggling with profitability due to high rent costs and stagnant sales. The most sustainable approach will be to diversify his offerings and focus on customer satisfaction by addressing gaps in his product assortment.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Sundaram is paying a high rent but cannot compete with large retail chains in the town that offer deeper discounts.
- His sales are stagnated, and he needs to increase profits without affecting the customer goodwill built through discounts.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Negotiate rent): While negotiating rent could reduce costs, it may not be sustainable long-term, and could create tension with the residents' association.
- Option B (Advertise through leaflets): Advertising is useful but may not be effective in attracting more customers if the store lacks competitive offerings.
- Option C (Procure items on demand): Offering items that are not available locally will make Sundaram's store more appealing to residents and could improve sales by meeting customer needs directly.

- Option D (Remove discounts): Removing the discounts will likely alienate customers who are used to getting a better deal.
- Option E (Introduce cheap Wednesdays): Offering steep discounts on a single day could attract more customers, but this may not be sustainable due to the price erosion and may affect overall profitability.

Thus, the most sustainable approach is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Focusing on meeting customer needs and offering value-added services, like special item procurement, is often a sustainable way to differentiate your business from competitors.

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48. To increase his profits, Sundaram diversified into selling vegetables. Earlier, a vegetable vendor used to visit the gated community once every week. The vendor, after seeing dismal sales ever since Sundaram started selling vegetables, stopped visiting the gated community. The residents' association did not like losing the rent they were receiving from the vendor. Additionally, the maintenance staff of the gated community benefitted from receiving vegetables either for free or at extremely low prices, as the vendor, reluctant to take back the unsold stock, chose to distribute them at little to no cost. This enabled the residents' association to retain maintenance staff whose attrition rate was increasing with more gated communities coming up in the nearby area. Which of the following options will BEST address the concerns of the residents' association arising out of Sundaram getting into selling vegetables?

(A) The residents' association should impose a fine on Sundaram since he was not contracted to sell vegetables.

(B) The residents' association should ask Sundaram to use the erstwhile space for selling vegetables and pay rent for the same.

(C) The residents' association should discount the rent for the vegetable vendor to increase competition and ask him to continue.

(D) The residents' association should ask Sundaram to give a specific quantity of vegetables

to the maintenance staff for free.

(E) The residents' association should request for bids from various shop owners to open another grocery store in the vacant place.

Correct Answer: (D) The residents' association should ask Sundaram to give a specific quantity of vegetables to the maintenance staff for free.

Solution:

Sundaram's decision to sell vegetables has led to the vendor leaving and dissatisfaction among the residents' association due to loss of rent from the vendor and the benefits given to the maintenance staff. The best way to resolve this is through a balanced compromise.

Step 1: Evaluate the Situation

- The maintenance staff benefits from the vegetable vendor's free or discounted vegetables, which helps retain them.
- The residents' association values this relationship and may feel the loss of vendor rent.
- Sundaram is providing vegetables but may need to compromise by continuing to support the maintenance staff's needs.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Impose a fine): A fine would create unnecessary tension and is not a productive way to solve the problem.
- Option B (Use space for vegetables and pay rent): This could create unnecessary competition with Sundaram's existing store and increase his costs, possibly affecting his profitability.
- Option C (Discount the rent for the vendor): Reintroducing the vendor could re-establish competition and restore the rent payments, but it might conflict with Sundaram's goals.
- Option D (Give vegetables to maintenance staff): This option provides a compromise, addressing the residents' association's concerns by ensuring that the maintenance staff continues to benefit from vegetables, which is seen as a positive gesture while keeping Sundaram's business intact.
- Option E (Request bids for a new grocery store): This would undermine Sundaram's position and create unnecessary competition.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

When introducing new services that affect established relationships, offering compromises (like supporting the maintenance staff) can help ensure long-term success and maintain positive relationships.

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49. Sundaram is a happy man now. He has managed to get contracts with two more nearby gated communities. He feels like the grocery king of the suburb. However, his happiness is short-lived as Rush'em, a new startup, begins making waves among gated communities. This app-based startup promises to deliver any grocery item within 15 minutes, leveraging its own large warehouses. Earlier, Rush'em was confined to the main town, but now, the startup has expanded its delivery services to the suburbs, including gated communities where Sundaram operates. Of course, for the suburbs, Rush'em promises delivery within 60 minutes, given the distance. Though not an official slogan, the rumour in the market is that Rush'em's founder inspired her employees by shouting "Rush'em or Crash'em, but Push'em through that door!" Sundaram started losing business to Rush'em. He felt rushed, pushed, and was wondering if his business would come crashing. What should Sundaram BEST do to ensure that his revenues do not come down due to Rush'em?

(A) Sundaram should explore starting his own delivery startup Finish'em, dedicated to the suburb, competing with Rush'em.

(B) Sundaram should employ a few helpers who will do home delivery of his products within 10 minutes across the three gated communities.

(C) Sundaram should demand that his rent be reduced to one-third since Rush'em has free access to these societies.

(D) Sundaram should not bother since the nearest town is 30 kilometers away.

(E) Sundaram should start giving discounts on every product he sells.

Correct Answer: (B) Sundaram should employ a few helpers who will do home delivery of his products within 10 minutes across the three gated communities.

Solution:

Sundaram is facing competition from Rush'em, a startup that promises fast delivery services. To remain competitive and prevent revenue loss, Sundaram should focus on improving his delivery services.

Step 1: Analyze the Situation

- Rush'em is offering fast delivery and is gaining traction among customers in the suburbs.
- Sundaram cannot compete with Rush'em directly on delivery speed, but he can enhance his own delivery services to match customer expectations.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (Explore starting his own delivery startup): This could be costly and requires significant investment in logistics, which may not be sustainable.
- Option B (Employ helpers for home delivery): This is the best solution as it allows Sundaram to offer fast delivery within the gated communities, making his business more competitive without a significant upfront investment.
- Option C (Demand rent reduction): This is unrelated to improving his service offerings and will not address the root of the problem.
- Option D (Do not bother): Ignoring competition will only lead to further loss of customers.
- Option E (Start giving discounts): While discounts may attract customers in the short term, it is not a long-term strategy for success against fast delivery competitors.

Thus, the best option is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

To stay competitive in the market, improving customer service (like fast delivery) is often more effective than relying on discounts alone.

Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning (VALR)

50. Read the following sentences carefully:

- A. The dean asked for additional funding.
- B. The boss discussed about the new project with his team.

- C. Radhika is good in data interpretation.
- D. Neil is transitioning into a new phase of life.
- E. Rajat emphasized on the need for consistency in XAT preparation.
- F. This car is superior to the previous one in terms of efficiency.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

(A) A, D & F

(B) C, E & F

(C) A, B & C

(D) B, C & F

(E) B, C & D

Correct Answer: (A) A, D & F

Solution:

Let's analyze the grammatical correctness of each sentence:

- Sentence A ("The dean asked for additional funding") is grammatically correct.

- Sentence B ("The boss discussed about the new project with his team") is incorrect. The verb "discuss" does not require "about." The correct sentence should be: "The boss discussed the new project with his team."

- Sentence C ("Radhika is good in data interpretation") is incorrect. The preposition "good in" should be "good at." The correct sentence should be: "Radhika is good at data interpretation."

- Sentence D ("Neil is transitioning into a new phase of life") is grammatically correct.

- Sentence E ("Rajat emphasized on the need for consistency in XAT preparation") is incorrect. The verb "emphasize" does not require "on." The correct sentence should be: "Rajat emphasized the need for consistency in XAT preparation."

- Sentence F ("This car is superior to the previous one in terms of efficiency") is grammatically correct.

Step 1: Identify the grammatically correct sentences

- Sentences A, D, and F are correct.

- Sentences B, C, and E contain errors.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

When using verbs like ”discuss,” avoid unnecessary prepositions like ”about.” Also, use ”good at” for skills or abilities, not ”good in.”

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51. Read the following sentences carefully:

- A. There are less cars on the road today.
- B. She is nicer than her sister.
- C. I have been here from Monday.
- D. I know how to swim.
- E. She is the girl that won the case competition.
- F. The media are divided on the issue.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

(A) A, D & F

(B) D, E & F

(C) B, C & E

(D) A, D & E

(E) B, D & F

Correct Answer: (E) B, D & F

Solution:

Let’s analyze the grammatical correctness of each sentence:

- Sentence A (”There are less cars on the road today”) is incorrect. ”Less” should be used with uncountable nouns, while ”fewer” should be used with countable nouns. The correct sentence should be: ”There are fewer cars on the road today.”

- Sentence B (”She is nicer than her sister”) is grammatically correct.

- Sentence C (”I have been here from Monday”) is incorrect. ”From” should be replaced with ”since” when referring to a specific point in time. The correct sentence should be: ”I have been here since Monday.”
- Sentence D (”I know how to swim”) is grammatically correct.
- Sentence E (”She is the girl that won the case competition”) is incorrect. The word ”that” should be replaced with ”who” because it refers to a person. The correct sentence should be: ”She is the girl who won the case competition.”
- Sentence F (”The media are divided on the issue”) is grammatically correct.

Step 1: Identify the grammatically correct sentences

- Sentences B, D, and F are correct.
- Sentences A, C, and E contain errors.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

When referring to countable nouns, use ”fewer,” and for uncountable nouns, use ”less.” Additionally, use ”who” for people, not ”that.”

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52. Read the following excerpt carefully. *When each_____ generation grows up, it looks down on the next as if we all forget what it feels like to be __. When most think about their own youthful indiscretions they do so with a wink and a laugh. But when the same people think about those in today's generation doing something similar, they sound _____ the alarm about a decline in morality in the next generation.*

From the options below, choose the one that meaningfully fills up the blanks.

(A) succeeding, next, people, naturally

(B) old, older, youngsters, sincerely

(C) successive, young, adults, hypocritically

(D) preceding, succeeding, folks, cautiously

(E) young, young, seniors, carefully

Correct Answer: (C) successive, young, adults, hypocritically

Solution:

Let's analyze the context of the excerpt to fill in the blanks meaningfully:

Step 1: Analyze the Context

- The passage talks about the way generations view each other, with older generations often looking down on younger generations. This suggests the use of "successive" and "young" for the first two blanks.

- The "hypocrisy" mentioned at the end suggests that people often act as if the new generation's behavior is worse, even though they themselves engaged in similar behavior when they were young.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A ("succeeding, next, people, naturally"): "Succeeding" and "next" make sense, but "people" and "naturally" do not fit the context well.

- Option B ("old, older, youngsters, sincerely"): "Old" and "older" don't quite fit here, as the passage emphasizes generational differences.

- Option C ("successive, young, adults, hypocritically"): This is the best fit, as "successive" fits the idea of generational progress, "young" fits the reference to the next generation, and "hypocritically" aligns with the critique of older generations.

- Option D ("preceding, succeeding, folks, cautiously"): This option uses "folks", which is too informal and does not fit the context well.

- Option E ("young, young, seniors, carefully"): This option is inconsistent with the context, as "young" and "seniors" do not work well together in this context.

Thus, the correct option is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

When filling in blanks in a passage, consider the tone and meaning of the surrounding sentences to select words that maintain the logical flow of the idea.

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53. Read the following statements and answer the question that follows.

- A. Whatever that might be on Europa—far from the Sun, and beneath kilometres of ice —it will not be sunlight.

- B. The final ingredient for a habitable world is a source of energy for life to exploit.
- C. On Earth almost every living thing ultimately depends on photosynthesis for its energy, including the rich ecosystems in the ocean depths, discovered in the 1980s and which helped the idea of life on Europa gain a foothold.
- D. Their inhabitants do not benefit from sunlight directly, but their metabolisms are powered by chemicals created in the photosynthesising, oxygen-rich surface oceans far above.
- E. That is a bit of a problem.

Which of the following sequences is the MOST logically ordered?

(A) A, B, E, D, C

(B) C, E, B, A, D

(C) D, E, C, B, A

(D) B, A, E, C, D

(E) E, D, B, C, A

Correct Answer: (A) A, B, E, D, C

Solution:

Let's analyze the logical order of the statements:

- Statement A introduces the location (Europa), describing it as far from the Sun and under ice, leading to the idea that it cannot rely on sunlight.
- Statement B explains the requirement for a source of energy for life.
- Statement E refers to the problem of lacking sunlight in Europa's environment, making the energy issue more pressing.
- Statement D then explains how life could exist without direct sunlight, relying on chemicals from photosynthesis in the surface oceans.
- Statement C introduces the concept of photosynthesis on Earth, explaining how energy is derived, linking back to how life on Europa could work.

Thus, the correct sequence is $\boxed{A, B, E, D, C}$.

Quick Tip

A well-structured sequence usually flows from broad information (location and energy needs) to specific details (how energy might be sourced without sunlight).

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54. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows. *No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like hours later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness — they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.*

Which of the following options can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) To claim to be good people, we should know what temptation means.

(B) How we label ourselves depends entirely on how much we have fought for that label.

(C) Unless we are put to test for our beliefs, we do not know what our true beliefs are.

(D) To claim to know anything we must apply it in a situation and then judge ourselves.

(E) Most of the population does not know what being bad or being good actually is.

Correct Answer: (C) Unless we are put to test for our beliefs, we do not know what our true beliefs are.

Solution:

The passage emphasizes how temptation and resisting it reveal the true nature of an individual. The central idea is that we only understand the strength of our beliefs or character when we are tested. Hence, the most logical conclusion from the passage is:

- Option C (”Unless we are put to test for our beliefs, we do not know what our true beliefs are”) aligns with the theme of testing one’s strength by resisting temptation.

Step 1: Evaluate the Options

- Option A (To claim to be good people, we should know what temptation means) is relevant but does not directly capture the essence of testing one’s character.

- Option B (How we label ourselves depends entirely on how much we have fought for that label) is partially correct but not the best fit.
- Option D (To claim to know anything we must apply it in a situation and then judge ourselves) is close but does not emphasize testing beliefs as directly.
- Option E (Most of the population does not know what being bad or being good actually is) is too broad and does not fit the passage's focus on testing beliefs.

Thus, the correct conclusion is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

When drawing conclusions from a passage, focus on the core theme, such as testing beliefs in this case, to identify the most fitting answer.

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55. Read the following statements and answer the question that follows.

- A. The treaty tests of a budget deficit no bigger than 3% of the GDP and a public debt converging towards a ceiling of 60% of GDP seemed impossible for Italy to pass by 1999.
- B. That Belgium also had a public debt above 100 percent of GDP helped, as did a special euro tax Mr. Prodi introduced.
- C. Into the uncompromising environment came the first of a series of external shocks. One of the earliest was entry into the European single currency, the euro, in 1999.
- D. But when it became clear in 1997 that Spain was determined to join from the start, Romano Prodi, then Italian prime minister, decided that Italy, as a founder member of the bloc, must be there too.
- E. Germany had more or less designed the 1992 Maastricht treaty's convergence criteria to keep out a profligate, chronically indebted Italy.

Which of the following sequences is the MOST logically ordered?

(A) E, D, B, A, C

(B) C, B, D, E, A

(C) A, B, C, D, E

(D) C, E, A, D, B

(E) E, A, B, C, D

Correct Answer: (A) E, D, B, A, C

Solution:

Let's logically order the statements:

- Statement E introduces the context of the 1992 Maastricht treaty, which laid down convergence criteria for countries in the European Union.

- Statement D explains Spain's determination to join the EU, leading to Italy's decision to be part of the European single currency.

- Statement B describes the situation with Belgium's public debt and how a special tax helped Italy's case. - Statement A provides the budgetary goals for Italy to meet by 1999, which seemed impossible.

- Statement C introduces the external shock, the entry into the European single currency, which was part of the EU's economic integration.

Thus, the most logical order is $\boxed{E, D, B, A, C}$.

Quick Tip

Look for contextual cues in the statements to establish the sequence, like introducing background information (e.g., Maastricht treaty) before discussing subsequent events (e.g., Italy's decision).

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56. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows. *The lovely thing about the unsayable is that it is unsaid. As soon as it is said, it is sayable and loses all its mystery and ambiguity. Art exists so that the unsayable can be said without having to actually say it. We cloud it in secrecy and obfuscation. The mind is free to roam and all things can be imagined, under the cover of darkness. How nice that is. The unsayable. How tired we are of having things explained to us. Having things said. How nice it is when people just shut ... up."*

Which of the following options can be BEST inferred from the passage?

(A) Art unfolds the mystery of human tongues.

(B) Any piece of art defies expression.

(C) Art echoes the language that is unintelligible.

(D) Explaining an art metamorphoses into another piece of art.

(E) Art expresses what humans cannot communicate in words.

Correct Answer: (E) Art expresses what humans cannot communicate in words.

Solution:

The passage emphasizes the concept of the unsayable—ideas or feelings that are too complex to express directly in words. It argues that art allows us to express these complex emotions and ideas without having to actually say them, preserving their mystery and ambiguity.

Step 1: Analyze the Options

- Option A ("Art unfolds the mystery of human tongues"): This suggests that art reveals how we communicate, but the passage is more about how art expresses what is difficult to say, not about communication itself.
- Option B ("Any piece of art defies expression"): This is not correct because the passage suggests that art helps express the unsayable, not that it defies expression.
- Option C ("Art echoes the language that is unintelligible"): This is somewhat close, but the passage is more about expressing the unsayable rather than echoing unintelligible language.
- Option D ("Explaining an art metamorphoses into another piece of art"): While intriguing, this option doesn't align with the core idea of the passage.
- Option E ("Art expresses what humans cannot communicate in words"): This best captures the essence of the passage, where art expresses what cannot be said directly in words.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Art provides a unique avenue to express complex emotions or ideas that are difficult to articulate with words. It captures the unsayable and gives it form.

57. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows. *Employees complaining about mundane tasks are often ignored. There is a listlessness that settles around them. A bored employee may continue to produce good results, but that can also be because the tasks are repetitive, and the outcomes are expected.*

Which of the following options can be BEST inferred from the passage?

(A) Boredom is a serious problem that needs immediate attention.

(B) A bored employee must be a bad performer for the organization to take notice.

(C) Listlessness settles around good performers who are bored.

(D) Mundane tasks create listlessness around good performers.

(E) Good performance makes organizations overlook their employees' state of mind.

Correct Answer: (C) Listlessness settles around good performers who are bored.

Solution:

The passage describes how boredom and listlessness arise in employees when they are tasked with mundane, repetitive tasks. Despite the boredom, employees might still produce good results, but their boredom remains unaddressed.

Step 1: Analyze the Options

- Option A ("Boredom is a serious problem that needs immediate attention"): This option is not the best fit because the passage doesn't say that boredom is urgent; it focuses more on how it affects good performers.
- Option B ("A bored employee must be a bad performer for the organization to take notice"): The passage does not suggest that bored employees must be bad performers for attention to be given to them.
- Option C ("Listlessness settles around good performers who are bored"): This is correct, as the passage specifically mentions that listlessness affects bored employees, even if they are good performers.
- Option D ("Mundane tasks create listlessness around good performers"): This is somewhat correct but doesn't directly focus on the fact that bored employees (regardless of performance) become listless.
- Option E ("Good performance makes organizations overlook their employees' state of mind"): While this may be true in some cases, the passage focuses more on boredom and

listlessness than on organizational neglect.

Thus, the correct inference is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Recognize that listlessness and boredom can affect even good performers and can impact employee satisfaction, regardless of work output.

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58. Observe the cartoon below carefully and answer the question that follows. *[Cartoon by Tom Toro, originally published in The New Yorker on November 18, 2024. Used for educational purposes only]*

"I love how he finds joy in the simple things." "The emotional burden of alleviating his depression is crushing me."

Which of the following options BEST explains the underlying message depicted in the cartoon?

(A) Our sense of duty for others can overwhelm our sense of self.

(B) Our understanding of others, based on our beliefs, may not be true.

(C) Our sense of identity is based on how others interpret us.

(D) Our interpretation of others' reality is mostly arbitrary.

(E) Love is about caring for others even if it wears you out.

Correct Answer: (A) Our sense of duty for others can overwhelm our sense of self.

Solution:

The cartoon juxtaposes two perspectives: one where a person appreciates simple joys, and the other where the emotional burden of trying to help someone is overwhelming.

Step 1: Analyze the Cartoon's Message

- The first speaker expresses joy in the simple things, while the second speaker is emotionally burdened by the responsibility of helping someone else.
- The second speaker's words reflect the overwhelming sense of duty they feel towards helping the first speaker, suggesting that one's duty to others can sometimes be emotionally draining.

Step 2: Evaluate the Options

- Option A ("Our sense of duty for others can overwhelm our sense of self"): This is the most appropriate answer, as the cartoon clearly highlights how the second speaker is overwhelmed by their emotional responsibility.
- Option B ("Our understanding of others, based on our beliefs, may not be true"): This is unrelated to the main theme of the cartoon, which focuses on emotional burdens rather than misunderstanding.
- Option C ("Our sense of identity is based on how others interpret us"): This is not the central message of the cartoon.
- Option D ("Our interpretation of others' reality is mostly arbitrary"): While this may be true in some contexts, it doesn't directly apply to the cartoon's theme of emotional burden.
- Option E ("Love is about caring for others even if it wears you out"): Although this might apply, it doesn't capture the overwhelming emotional responsibility expressed in the cartoon.

Thus, the best explanation is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

When interpreting cartoons, look for the contrast between perspectives to understand the emotional dynamics at play.

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59. Read the following poem and answer the TWO questions that follow. Look how you turned on
the ceiling fan—it's too high,
see how it shakes and trembles.
You walk into this room
with your hot ideas
and the ceiling fan has to work harder
to cool down the room
for us. You walk into this room
with your crazy eyes
and the ceiling fan

wants to fly loose. It dreams
of becoming a spider lily.

Which of the following statements BEST conveys the theme of the poem?

(A) The poem talks about a conflict between transformation and escapism.

(B) The poem conveys a subtle art of argumentation and counter-argumentation.

(C) The poem talks about inner conflict resolved by an attempt to restore balance.

(D) The poem conveys fear and anxiety due to the loss of stability.

(E) The poem conveys a quest for self during emotional turmoil.

Correct Answer: (C) The poem talks about inner conflict resolved by an attempt to restore balance.

Solution:

The poem presents a scenario where the presence of a person with ”hot ideas” and ”crazy eyes” causes tension in the room. The ceiling fan, which is trying to cool down the room, symbolizes the internal conflict caused by this person’s intense energy. The ceiling fan’s desire to ”fly loose” and its dream of becoming a spider lily suggests a struggle for balance in the room.

- Option A (”The poem talks about a conflict between transformation and escapism”): This is not the best fit as the poem focuses more on the tension created in the room, not on escapism.
- Option B (”The poem conveys a subtle art of argumentation and counter-argumentation”): This is incorrect, as the poem is not about argumentation but about the tension between the presence of the person and the room’s response.
- Option C (”The poem talks about inner conflict resolved by an attempt to restore balance”): This option fits perfectly, as the ceiling fan represents the attempt to restore balance in response to the intense energy introduced by the person.
- Option D (”The poem conveys fear and anxiety due to the loss of stability”): The poem does not explicitly focus on fear and anxiety, but rather on the imbalance caused by the person’s presence.
- Option E (”The poem conveys a quest for self during emotional turmoil”): While there is emotional intensity in the poem, it is more about restoring balance than a quest for self.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Look for symbolism in poems—like the ceiling fan representing balance and the person's presence representing emotional intensity.

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60. What does the author BEST mean, when she says, "You walk into this room with your hot ideas and the ceiling fan has to work harder to cool down the room for us?"

(A) That person's presence makes the ceiling fan lose its ability to handle intense energy.

(B) That the person brings with him passionate intellectual and emotional energy.

(C) That the person's presence develops self-doubt in others.

(D) That the person"s hostile presence makes others feel unwelcomed.

(E) That the person's presence creates palpable tension in the room.

Correct Answer: (B) That the person brings with him passionate intellectual and emotional energy.

Solution:

The phrase "hot ideas" and the fact that the ceiling fan has to work harder imply that the presence of the person brings intense energy into the room, which leads to a response from the environment (the ceiling fan). This suggests that the person's ideas and emotional state are energetic and intense.

- Option A ("That person's presence makes the ceiling fan lose its ability to handle intense energy"): This option is incorrect because the fan is still working hard, not losing its ability.
- Option B ("That the person brings with him passionate intellectual and emotional energy"): This is the most appropriate answer. The "hot ideas" and "crazy eyes" suggest that the person brings intense intellectual and emotional energy, which creates tension in the room.
- Option C ("That the person's presence develops self-doubt in others"): The passage doesn't indicate self-doubt in others but rather focuses on the intense energy brought into the room.
- Option D ("That the person's hostile presence makes others feel unwelcomed"): The poem does not suggest hostility; instead, it focuses on the intensity of the person's presence.
- Option E ("That the person's presence creates palpable tension in the room"): Although this is a possible interpretation, Option B is more accurate because it directly addresses the

energy brought by the person.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

In interpreting poetry, focus on symbolism and metaphors, like ”hot ideas” representing intense emotional and intellectual energy.

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

You may laugh at a hat, but what you are making fun of, in this case, is not the piece of felt or straw, but the shape that men have given it, - the human caprice whose mould it has assumed. It is strange that so important a fact, and such a simple one too, has not attracted to a greater degree the attention of philosophers. Several have defined man as ”an animal which laughs.” They might equally well have defined him as an animal which is laughed at; for if any other animal, or some lifeless object, produces the same effect, it is always because of some resemblance to man, of the stamp he gives it or the use he puts it to.

Here — would point out, as a symptom equally worthy of notice, the ABSENCE OF FEELING which usually accompanies laughter. It seems as though the comic could not produce its disturbing effect unless it fell, so to say, on the surface of a soul that is thoroughly calm and unruffled. Indifference is its natural environment, for laughter has no greater foe than emotion. — do not mean that we could not laugh at a person who inspires us with pity, for instance, or even with affection, but in such a case we must, for the moment, put our affection out of court and impose silence upon our pity. In a society composed of pure intelligences there would probably be no more tears, though perhaps there would still be laughter; whereas highly emotional souls, in tune and unison with life, in whom every event would be sentimentally prolonged and re-echoed, would neither know nor understand laughter. Try, for a moment, to become interested in everything that is being said and done; act, in imagination, with those who act, and feel with those who feel; in a word, give your sympathy its widest expansion: as though at the touch of a fairy wand you will see the flimsiest of objects assume importance, and a gloomy hue spread over everything. Now step aside, look upon life as a disinterested spectator: many a drama will turn into a comedy. It is

enough for us to stop our ears to the sound of music, in a room where dancing is going on, for the dancers at once to appear ridiculous. How many human actions would stand a similar test? Should we not see many of them suddenly pass from grave to gay, on isolating them from the accompanying music of sentiment? To produce the whole of its effect, then, the comic demands something like a momentary anesthesia of the heart. Its appeal is to intelligence, pure and simple.

61. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

You may laugh at a hat, but what you are making fun of, in this case, is not the piece of felt or straw, but the shape that men have given it, - the human caprice whose mould it has assumed. It is strange that so important a fact, and such a simple one too, has not attracted to a greater degree the attention of philosophers. Several have defined man as "an animal which laughs." They might equally well have defined him as an animal which is laughed at; for if any other animal, or some lifeless object, produces the same effect, it is always because of some resemblance to man, of the stamp he gives it or the use he puts it to. Here I would point out, as a symptom equally worthy of notice, the ABSENCE OF FEELING which usually accompanies laughter. It seems as though the comic could not produce its disturbing effect unless it fell, so to say, on the surface of a soul that is thoroughly calm and unruffled. Indifference is its natural environment, for laughter has no greater foe than emotion. I do not mean that we could not laugh at a person who inspires us with pity, for instance, or even with affection, but in such a case we must, for the moment, put our affection out of court and impose silence upon our pity. In a society composed of pure intelligences there would probably be no more tears, though perhaps there would still be laughter; whereas highly emotional souls, in tune and unison with life, in whom every event would be sentimentally prolonged and re-echoed, would neither know nor understand laughter. Try, for a moment, to become interested in everything that is being said and done; act, in imagination, with those who act, and feel with those who feel; in a word, give your sympathy its widest expansion: as though at the touch of a fairy wand you will see the flimsiest of objects assume importance, and a gloomy hue spread over everything. Now step aside, look upon life as a disinterested spectator: many a drama will turn into a comedy. It is enough for us to stop our ears to the sound of music, in a room where dancing is going on, for the dancers at once to appear ridiculous. How many human actions would stand a similar test? Should we not see many of

them suddenly pass from grave to gay, on isolating them from the accompanying music of sentiment? To produce the whole of its effect, then, the comic demands something like a momentary anesthesia of the heart. Its appeal is to intelligence, pure and simple.

Which of the following statements will the author BEST agree with?

(A) Life is a tragedy when seen in close up but a comedy in long-shot.

(B) Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.

(C) Comedy is but tragedy, cunningly disguised and popularized for the multitude.

(D) A person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amused.

(E) Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair.

Correct Answer: (A) Life is a tragedy when seen in close up but a comedy in long-shot.

Solution:

The passage discusses how emotional detachment is required to view life through the lens of comedy rather than tragedy. The author highlights that many events in life, when seen from a distance or when viewed without deep emotional involvement, can appear comic. The metaphor of stepping aside and looking at life from a disinterested perspective aligns with the idea that life's seriousness often turns into comedy when observed from a long-shot.

- Option A ("Life is a tragedy when seen in close up but a comedy in long-shot"): This best fits the passage's idea that when emotion and sentiment are removed, things often appear comic.
- Option B ("Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious"): This doesn't match the passage, as it emphasizes that comedy comes from detached observation, not from being serious.
- Option C ("Comedy is but tragedy, cunningly disguised and popularized for the multitude"): This is more about the transformation of tragedy into comedy, but the passage emphasizes the need for emotional detachment to see comedy.
- Option D ("A person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amused"): The passage doesn't focus on self-deprecation but rather on the emotional detachment required to see life as a comedy.
- Option E ("Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair"): The passage doesn't suggest escape from despair but rather points to emotional detachment as the key to viewing

comedy.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

The key to understanding the relationship between tragedy and comedy in this passage is emotional detachment. Life seen up close may be tragic, but when observed from a distance, it often appears comic.

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62. What does the author BEST mean when they say, "it seems as though the comic could not produce its disturbing effect unless it fell, so to say, on the surface of a soul that is thoroughly calm and unruffled?"

(A) To appreciate humour with an unsettling tone, people benefit from being in a calm state.

(B) Comical behaviour disturbs those more deeply whose minds are calm and composed.

(C) Comics are the most effective when the audience is unaware of the context.

(D) Relaxed people tend to find edgy or disturbing comedy funnier.

(E) Unless one is emotionally detached from the event, it is impossible to appreciate a comical view.

Correct Answer: (A) To appreciate humour with an unsettling tone, people benefit from being in a calm state.

Solution:

The author highlights the absence of feeling when laughing at the comic. The calm state of mind allows one to appreciate the disturbing effects of humor. The idea is that laughter in response to disturbing content requires an individual to be emotionally unruffled, as this allows them to see the humor in the situation.

- Option A ("To appreciate humour with an unsettling tone, people benefit from being in a calm state"): This is correct, as the passage discusses how calmness is essential to appreciating humor that might otherwise seem disturbing.

- Option B ("Comical behaviour disturbs those more deeply whose minds are calm and composed"): This is close but implies that calm minds are disturbed more, which isn't what

the passage suggests.

- Option C ("Comics are the most effective when the audience is unaware of the context"): This is not what the passage emphasizes; it focuses more on the state of the observer rather than their knowledge of the context.

- Option D ("Relaxed people tend to find edgy or disturbing comedy funnier"): The passage is about how calmness allows one to appreciate comedy, not necessarily that it makes it funnier.

- Option E ("Unless one is emotionally detached from the event, it is impossible to appreciate a comical view"): This is close, but the passage suggests that calmness (rather than detachment) is key.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Understanding the relationship between calmness and humor in this context: calmness allows us to appreciate humor, especially when it involves unsettling or disturbing themes.

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63. Based on the passage, which of the following statements CANNOT be inferred?

(A) Inanimate objects can become a subject of laughter because they may project human characteristics.

(B) Comic happens in a setting of emotional detachment, having a sense of distance.

(C) When you laugh at a hat, you laugh at a human being it represents.

(D) When strong emotions are involved, laughter cannot be evoked.

(E) Humour only springs from experiences that demand momentary anesthesia.

Correct Answer: (D) When strong emotions are involved, laughter cannot be evoked.

Solution:

The passage explains that laughter can be a reaction to emotional detachment and that it often occurs when there is a momentary anesthesia of the heart. However, it does not state that strong emotions necessarily prevent laughter—in fact, emotions like pity or affection can

still allow for laughter, though they require the temporary suspension of emotion.

- Option A (”Inanimate objects can become a subject of laughter because they may project human characteristics”): The passage states that laughter often comes from things that resemble or have the stamp of man, so this can be inferred.

- Option B (”Comic happens in a setting of emotional detachment, having a sense of distance”): This is directly supported by the passage, as it talks about how detachment allows for comedy.

- Option C (”When you laugh at a hat, you laugh at a human being it represents”): The passage mentions that we laugh at the shape given to objects, suggesting this is correct.

- Option D (”When strong emotions are involved, laughter cannot be evoked”): This cannot be inferred, as the passage doesn’t explicitly suggest that strong emotions prevent laughter.

- Option E (”Humour only springs from experiences that demand momentary anesthesia”): The passage emphasizes that humor requires a temporary suspension of emotions, making this statement valid.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional detachment as the key to understanding comedy in the passage. Strong emotions don’t necessarily stop laughter but influence how we respond to it.

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Recently a team of social scientists launched an experiment to test that hypothesis. They recruited 1,500 entrepreneurs in West Africa—a mix of women and men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s—who were running small startups in manufacturing, service, and commerce. They randomly assigned the founders to one of three groups. One was a control group: they went about their business as usual. The other two were training groups: they spent a week learning new concepts, analyzing them in case studies of other entrepreneurs, and applying them to their own startups through role-play and reflection exercises. What differed was whether the training focused on cognitive skills or character skills. In cognitive skills training, the founders took an accredited business course created by the International Finance

Corporation. They studied finance, accounting, HR, marketing, and pricing, and practiced using what they learned to solve challenges and seize opportunities. In character skills training, the founders attended a class designed by psychologists to teach personal initiative. They studied proactivity, discipline, and determination, and practiced putting those qualities into action. Character skills training had a dramatic impact. After founders had spent merely five days working on these skills, their firms' profits grew by an average of 30 percent over the next two years. That was nearly triple the benefit of training in cognitive skills. Finance and marketing knowledge might have equipped founders to capitalize on opportunities, but studying proactivity and discipline enabled them to generate opportunities. They learned to anticipate market changes rather than react to them. They developed more creative ideas and introduced more new products. When they encountered financial obstacles, instead of giving up, they were more resilient and resourceful in seeking loans. Along with demonstrating that character skills can propel us to achieve greater things, this evidence reveals that it's never too late to build them... Character doesn't set like plaster—it retains its plasticity. Characters are often confused with personality, but they're not the same. Personality is your predisposition—your basic instincts for how to think, feel, and act. Character is your capacity to prioritize your values over your instincts. Knowing your principles doesn't necessarily mean you know how to practice them, particularly under stress or pressure. It's easy to be proactive and determined when things are going well. The true test of character is whether you manage to stand by those values when the deck is stacked against you. If personality is how you respond on a typical day, character is how you show up on a hard day. Personality is not your destiny—it's your tendency. Character skills enable you to transcend that tendency to be true to your principles. It's not about the traits you have—it's what you decide to do with them. Wherever you are today, there's no reason why you can't grow your character skills starting now."

64. Which of the following views would the author BEST agree with?

(A) Putting our values and principles to practice requires transcending our personality.

(B) Our values and principles are always put to test by our personality.

(C) Our behavior is a function of our character not our personality.

(D) Character skills risk abandoning your personality along with your instincts.

(E) Because principles clash with your personality, character is needed.

Correct Answer: (A) Putting our values and principles to practice requires transcending our personality.

Solution:

The passage discusses how character is not the same as personality. Personality reflects basic instincts while character is about the capacity to prioritize values over these instincts. The author argues that true character comes into play when we face challenges and transcend our natural tendencies to act based on our principles. Thus, transcending personality is required to put our values and principles into practice.

- Option A ("Putting our values and principles to practice requires transcending our personality"): This is the most accurate reflection of the passage, as it talks about how character enables us to transcend personality.
- Option B ("Our values and principles are always put to test by our personality"): While personality influences how we act, the passage emphasizes that character allows us to transcend personality.
- Option C ("Our behavior is a function of our character not our personality"): This is close, but the passage suggests both character and personality play a role, but character helps transcend personality.
- Option D ("Character skills risk abandoning your personality along with your instincts"): This is incorrect, as character works with and transcends personality, not abandons it.
- Option E ("Because principles clash with your personality, character is needed"): While character helps align our values with actions, the passage does not focus on clashing principles but rather on transcending personality.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

In interpreting passages on character, focus on how character helps transcend personality to align with values and principles.

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65. Which of the following can be BEST inferred from the passage?

(A) Cognitive skills unlike character skills are always reactive.

(B) Being aware of your character skills enables you to exercise them.

(C) Sustainable success in life requires strong character skills.

(D) Character skills can be built only if one believes in them.

(E) Character skills can compensate for poor cognitive skills.

Correct Answer: (C) Sustainable success in life requires strong character skills.

Solution:

The passage emphasizes that character skills had a significant impact on the success of entrepreneurs, with firms that focused on character training seeing profits grow by 30

- Option A (”Cognitive skills unlike character skills are always reactive”): The passage doesn’t focus on cognitive skills being reactive, but rather on how character skills drive proactive actions.

- Option B (”Being aware of your character skills enables you to exercise them”): The passage does discuss how character skills can be built and exercised, but it emphasizes sustained effort and practice, not just awareness.

- Option C (”Sustainable success in life requires strong character skills”): This aligns perfectly with the passage, which highlights the importance of character for success.

- Option D (”Character skills can be built only if one believes in them”): The passage does not emphasize belief in character as a requirement, but rather the ability to build them through practice.

- Option E (”Character skills can compensate for poor cognitive skills”): While character skills are important, the passage doesn’t suggest that they compensate for poor cognitive skills; instead, it shows that both types of skills are important.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

When interpreting a passage about success, focus on the qualities that sustain long-term success, as character skills are emphasized in this context.

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66. Based on the passage, why would character skills help entrepreneurs more than

cognitive skills?

(A) Character skills prepare you for an uncertain future.

(B) Entrepreneurs are already aware of their business and are only missing character skills.

(C) Character skills are industry agnostic in application.

(D) One can be poor in finance and quantitative skills but really good in character skills.

(E) Character skills enable you to generate opportunities rather than capitalize on existing ones.

Correct Answer: (E) Character skills enable you to generate opportunities rather than capitalize on existing ones.

Solution:

The passage explains that character skills like proactivity, discipline, and determination enable entrepreneurs to generate opportunities rather than merely capitalize on existing ones. Entrepreneurs with character skills are better at anticipating market changes and creating new ideas. The ability to generate opportunities is a key distinction that makes character skills more impactful than cognitive skills, which are more about seizing existing opportunities.

- Option A ("Character skills prepare you for an uncertain future"): This is true but not the best answer; the passage emphasizes generating opportunities rather than simply preparing for the future.
- Option B ("Entrepreneurs are already aware of their business and are only missing character skills"): The passage suggests that both cognitive and character skills are important, but character enables entrepreneurs to go beyond mere knowledge.
- Option C ("Character skills are industry agnostic in application"): While this might be inferred, the passage focuses more on how character skills help in generating opportunities.
- Option D ("One can be poor in finance and quantitative skills but really good in character skills"): The passage does not claim that poor cognitive skills can be overcome by character, but rather that character complements cognitive skills.
- Option E ("Character skills enable you to generate opportunities rather than capitalize on existing ones"): This perfectly aligns with the passage's argument that character helps in creating opportunities and taking proactive actions.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Focus on the difference between cognitive skills (solving challenges) and character skills (creating opportunities) when analyzing how they impact entrepreneurship.

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

This fluidity and situational dependence is uniquely human. In other species, in-group/outgroup distinctions reflect degrees of biological relatedness, or what evolutionary biologists call “kin selection.” Rodents distinguish between a sibling, a cousin, and a stranger by smell— fixed, genetically determined pheromonal signatures—and adapt their cooperation accordingly. Those murderous groups of chimps are largely made up of brothers or cousins who grew up together and predominantly harm outsiders.

Humans are plenty capable of kin-selective violence themselves, yet human group mentality is often utterly independent of such instinctual familial bonds. Most modern human societies rely instead on cultural kin selection, a process allowing people to feel closely related to what are, in a biological sense, total strangers. Often, this requires a highly active process of inculcation, with its attendant rituals and vocabularies. Consider military drills producing ”bands of brothers,” unrelated college freshmen becoming sorority ”sisters,” or the bygone value of welcoming immigrants into ”the American family.” This malleable, rather than genetically fixed, path of identity formation also drives people to adopt arbitrary markers that enable them to spot their cultural kin in an ocean of strangers—hence the importance various communities attach to flags, dress, or facial hair. The hipster beard, the turban, and the ”Make America Great Again” hat all fulfill this role by sending strong signals of tribal belonging.

Moreover, these cultural communities are arbitrary when compared to the relatively fixed logic of biological kin selection. Few things show this arbitrariness better than the experience of immigrant families, where the randomness of a visa lottery can radically reshuffle a child’s education, career opportunities, and cultural predilections. Had my grandparents and father missed the train out of Moscow that they instead barely made, maybe I’d be a chain-smoking Russian academic rather than a Birkenstock-wearing American one, moved to tears by the heroism during the Battle of Stalingrad rather than that

at Pearl Harbor. Scaled up from the level of individual family histories, our big-picture group identities—the national identities and cultural principles that structure our lives—are just as arbitrary and subject to the vagaries of history.

67. Based on the passage, how are rodents and humans similar to each other?

(A) Both rodents and humans carry a genetically determined pheromonal signature.

(B) Both rodents and humans can reign their instincts.

(C) Both rodents and humans make their groups exclusive of brothers and cousins.

(D) Both rodents and humans divide the world between ”us” and ”them.”

(E) Both rodents and humans are hostile towards outsiders.

Correct Answer: (D) Both rodents and humans divide the world between ”us” and ”them.”

Solution:

The passage highlights how rodents distinguish between siblings, cousins, and strangers, and adapt their cooperation accordingly. This is an instinctual kin selection mechanism. Similarly, humans divide the world into ”us” and ”them” based on cultural kin selection rather than biological distinctions. Both species categorize individuals into in-groups and out-groups as a mechanism for cooperation or exclusion.

- Option A (”Both rodents and humans carry a genetically determined pheromonal signature”): While rodents use pheromonal signatures to distinguish kin, the passage does not suggest that humans rely on such biological markers.
- Option B (”Both rodents and humans can reign their instincts”): The passage does not emphasize that both species can ”reign” or control instincts, rather that humans transcend their biological instincts through cultural kin selection.
- Option C (”Both rodents and humans make their groups exclusive of brothers and cousins”): While rodents may exclusively work with close kin, humans form groups based on cultural kin selection, which is not exclusively based on family relationships.
- Option D (”Both rodents and humans divide the world between ’us’ and ’them’”): This accurately reflects the passage, where both rodents and humans categorize others as either part of the in-group or out-group, though the criteria for categorization differ.
- Option E (”Both rodents and humans are hostile towards outsiders”): The passage does not specifically state that both species are hostile; it only discusses how humans and rodents

view others as outsiders or strangers.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Focus on how both rodents and humans use in-group/out-group distinctions to manage their relationships and cooperation, based on either biological or cultural kin selection.

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68. What does the author BEST mean when they say, "This fluidity and situational dependence is uniquely human?"

(A) Humans use cognitive architecture to detect any potential cues about social coalitions and alliances.

(B) Humans are uniquely progressive and ever evolving.

(C) The implicit traits that humans associate with can change over time.

(D) Humans' in-group/out-group thinking is influenced by their space and time.

(E) Humans' kin selection is not based on instinctual familial bonds while relating to strangers.

Correct Answer: (D) Humans' in-group/out-group thinking is influenced by their space and time.

Solution:

The passage discusses how human group mentality is often independent of instinctual familial bonds and instead relies on cultural kin selection. This fluidity allows for a situational dependence where individuals' identities and group affiliations can change based on cultural factors, time, and space. The author contrasts this with the more fixed biological kin selection found in other species.

- Option A ("Humans use cognitive architecture to detect any potential cues about social coalitions and alliances"): While humans do use cognitive strategies to navigate group dynamics, the passage focuses more on cultural kin selection rather than cognitive architecture. - Option B ("Humans are uniquely progressive and ever evolving"): The passage does not emphasize humans as being progressive or evolving, but rather describes

how their group identity can be fluid and dependent on sociocultural factors. - Option C ("The implicit traits that humans associate with can change over time"): While implicit traits may change, the passage focuses on how group identities are shaped by cultural factors, not on individual traits. - Option D ("Humans' in-group/out-group thinking is influenced by their space and time"): This is the most accurate inference, as the passage discusses how humans define in-group and out-group based on cultural factors that vary by time and context. - Option E ("Humans' kin selection is not based on instinctual familial bonds while relating to strangers"): This is true, but it focuses on kin selection itself, rather than the broader concept of in-group/out-group thinking influenced by space and time.
Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

When analyzing fluidity and situational dependence, focus on how group identity and kin selection are shaped by cultural factors and changing contexts.

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69. What does the author BEST mean when they refer to the Battle of Stalingrad and Pearl Harbour?

(A) Our identities and emotional attachments are subject to erratic interpretation of history.
(B) Humans' interpretation of specific events depends on their emotional association with them.
(C) Humans are capable of selective violence towards each other.
(D) Humans' relationship with any specific place depends upon their lineage and ancestry.
(E) Humans do not follow any specific logic when they develop association with a particular cultural community.

Correct Answer: (B) Humans' interpretation of specific events depends on their emotional association with them.

Solution:

The passage uses historical events like the Battle of Stalingrad and Pearl Harbor to demonstrate how emotional associations shape human identities. The author suggests that

historical events are not just viewed objectively but are also colored by personal emotions and cultural backgrounds. If the author's family history had been different, their emotional attachment to these events would likely change, thus shaping their identity and view of history.

- Option A ("Our identities and emotional attachments are subject to erratic interpretation of history"): This is partially true, but the focus is more on emotional associations than erratic interpretation.
- Option B ("Humans' interpretation of specific events depends on their emotional association with them"): This is the best answer, as the author explicitly discusses how their family history influences their emotional connection to historical events.
- Option C ("Humans are capable of selective violence towards each other"): This is unrelated to the focus of the passage, which is about identity and emotional attachment, not violence.
- Option D ("Humans' relationship with any specific place depends upon their lineage and ancestry"): While ancestry and lineage influence identity, the passage focuses more on emotional association than lineage alone.
- Option E ("Humans do not follow any specific logic when they develop association with a particular cultural community"): This is true but not the best reflection of the passage's focus on emotional connections to history.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

Focus on how emotional associations shape our interpretation of history and identity, particularly when analyzing historical events and their personal significance.

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Work, for many on the career track, is greedy. The individual who puts in overtime, weekend time, or evening time will earn a lot more—so much more that, even on an hourly basis, the person is earning more....

The greediness of work means that couples with children or other care responsibilities would

gain by doing a bit of specialization. This specialization doesn't mean catapulting back to the world of Leave It to Beaver. Women will still pursue demanding careers. But one member of the couple will be on call at home, ready to leave the office or workplace at a moment's notice. That person will have a position with considerable flexibility and will ordinarily not be expected to answer an e-mail or a call at ten p.m. That parent will not have to cancel an appearance at soccer practice for an M&A. The other parent, however, will be on call at work and do just the opposite. The potential impact on promotion, advancement, and earnings is obvious. The work of professionals and managers has always been greedy. Lawyers have always burned the midnight oil. Academics have always been judged for their cerebral output and are expected not to turn their brains off in the evenings. Most doctors and veterinarians were once on call 24/7. The value of greedy jobs has greatly increased with rising income inequality, which has soared since the early 1980s. Earnings at the very upper end of the income distribution have ballooned. The worker who jumps the highest gets an ever-bigger reward. The jobs with the greatest demands for long hours and the least flexibility have paid disproportionately more, while earnings in other employments have stagnated. Thus, positions that have been more difficult for women to enter in the first place, such as those in finance, are precisely the ones that have seen the greatest increases in income in the last several decades. The private equity associate who sees the deal through from beginning to end, who did the difficult modeling, and who went to every meeting and late-night dinner, will have maximum chance for a big bonus and the sought-after promotion. Rising inequality in earnings may be one important reason why the gender pay gap among college graduates has remained flat in the last several decades, despite improvements in women's credentials and positions. It may be the reason why the gender earnings gap for college graduates became larger than that between men and women in the entire population in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Women have been swimming upstream, holding their own but going against a strong current of endemic income inequality. Greedy work also means that couple equity has been, and will continue to be, jettisoned for increased family income. And when couple equity is thrown out the window, gender equality generally goes with it, except among same-sex unions. Gender norms that we have inherited get reinforced in a host of ways to allot more of the childcare responsibility to mothers, and more of the family care to grown daughters.

70. Which of the following about greedy work is CORRECT, as per the passage?

(A) Work that requires more time investment and dedication tend to pay more, and hence are sought after.

(B) With more women coming into the workforce, work itself is becoming greedier.

(C) Employees willing to sacrifice their leisure and time with families must be rewarded with higher pay.

(D) Greedy work is a result of greedy corporations, who reward greedy people.

(E) Organizations prefer only those who surrender their everything to the organization.

Correct Answer: (A) Work that requires more time investment and dedication tend to pay more, and hence are sought after.

Solution:

The passage clearly states that greedy work involves long hours and less flexibility, and these positions tend to pay more due to the high demands they require. This is particularly true for professionals and managers in fields like law and finance, where the more time you dedicate, the higher the reward. The work is described as greedy, meaning it consumes a lot of personal time but pays a high price for those willing to sacrifice their personal life.

- Option A (”Work that requires more time investment and dedication tend to pay more, and hence are sought after”): This directly reflects the core message in the passage that greedy work involves greater time investment and higher pay.
- Option B (”With more women coming into the workforce, work itself is becoming greedier”): The passage does not state that greedy work is becoming greedier because more women are entering the workforce. It simply discusses how greedy work impacts gender equality.
- Option C (”Employees willing to sacrifice their leisure and time with families must be rewarded with higher pay”): While this is suggested by the passage, it is not the primary focus of the passage; it discusses how greedy work impacts both income inequality and gender roles.
- Option D (”Greedy work is a result of greedy corporations, who reward greedy people”): The passage doesn’t attribute the existence of greedy work solely to corporations or the greediness of individuals.

- Option E (”Organizations prefer only those who surrender their everything to the organization”): The passage does not claim that organizations prefer people who surrender everything; it just describes how greedy work requires sacrifices in personal life.
Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

The passage suggests that jobs demanding long hours and little flexibility tend to offer higher pay, creating a reward structure based on sacrificing personal time.

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71. Which of the following statements CANNOT be inferred from the passage?

(A) Flexibility in work may result in relatively lesser income.

(B) The root of all problems in the world is greed.

(C) Women can be equally greedy as men.

(D) Many of those toiling hard on the career track are greedy.

(E) Jobs that extract the most out of the workforce also pay more.

Correct Answer: (B) The root of all problems in the world is greed.

Solution:

The passage focuses on greedy work, particularly in how it affects income inequality and gender equality. It talks about how greedy work rewards those who sacrifice their personal life, but it does not claim that greed is the root of all problems. Rather, the passage emphasizes the effects of greedy work on society and family dynamics.
- Option A (”Flexibility in work may result in relatively lesser income”): The passage supports this idea, as jobs with more flexibility are typically less demanding and do not pay as much.
- Option B (”The root of all problems in the world is greed”): This is not inferred in the passage, which does not claim that greed is the root cause of all issues; it discusses its impact on work and gender equality.
- Option C (”Women can be equally greedy as men”): The passage implies that greedy work is gender-neutral in terms of potential, though women face challenges due to gender norms.

- Option D (”Many of those toiling hard on the career track are greedy”): This is supported, as the passage describes greedy work as requiring people to sacrifice personal time.
- Option E (”Jobs that extract the most out of the workforce also pay more”): This is directly stated in the passage, where jobs with the greatest demands (long hours, less flexibility) pay more.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

The passage discusses greedy work in terms of time sacrifices and income inequality, not as a universal cause for all problems.

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72. Based on the passage, which of the following options BEST summarizes the author’s views?

(A) In heterosexual unions, women must pay a price to see their husbands rise to fame.

(B) Greedy work reinforces extant gender norms, leading to gender pay gap.

(C) Greedy work is the single most important reason for the gender pay gap we see in the society.

(D) Greedy work results in a men’s club, ensuring that women do not get to be a part.

(E) As women try to fight against gender norms, greedy work is their most formidable enemy.

Correct Answer: (B) Greedy work reinforces extant gender norms, leading to gender pay gap.

Solution:

The passage discusses how greedy work, with its demand for long hours and limited flexibility, exacerbates gender inequality. The gender pay gap has remained flat or grown due to the increased value of greedy work, which women find harder to enter due to gender norms. These norms require women to take on more childcare responsibilities and other household duties, making it difficult for them to fully engage in greedy work that demands long hours.

- Option A ("In heterosexual unions, women must pay a price to see their husbands rise to fame"): This option is not the best summary because the passage focuses on how gender norms affect work rather than personal success in unions.
- Option B ("Greedy work reinforces extant gender norms, leading to gender pay gap"): This is the most accurate summary, as the passage shows how greedy work perpetuates gender inequality by reinforcing traditional gender roles.
- Option C ("Greedy work is the single most important reason for the gender pay gap we see in the society"): While greedy work is an important factor, it is not the single most important reason, as the passage discusses multiple factors contributing to the gender pay gap.
- Option D ("Greedy work results in a men's club, ensuring that women do not get to be a part"): While greedy work is more accessible to men, the passage does not suggest that it is a "men's club" but rather discusses gender norms that hinder women's participation.
- Option E ("As women try to fight against gender norms, greedy work is their most formidable enemy"): This is partially true but does not fully capture the gender norm aspect as effectively as Option B.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

Greedy work perpetuates gender norms, which contribute to the gender pay gap by making it harder for women to participate in jobs demanding long hours and less flexibility.

Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

No one argues that the rich should be rich because they were born to wealthy parents. Critics of inequality may complain that those who would abolish inheritance taxes, say, are implicitly endorsing hereditary privilege. But no one defends hereditary privilege outright or disputes the principle that careers should be open to talents. Most of our debates about access to jobs, education, and public office proceed from premise of equal opportunity. Our disagreements are less about the principle itself than about what it requires. For example, critics of affirmative action in hiring and college admissions argue that such policies are inconsistent with equality of opportunity, because they ju applicants on factors other than

merit.

Defenders of affirmative action reply that such policies are necessary to make equality of opportun a reality for members of groups that have suffered discrimination or disadvantage. At the level of principle at least, and political rhetoric, meritocracy has won the day. In democracies throughout the world, politicians of the center-left and center-right claim that their policies are the ones that will enable all citizens, whatever their race or ethnicity, gender or class, to compete on equal terms and to rise as far as their efforts and talents will take them. When people complain about meritocracy, the complaint is usually not about the ideal but about our failure to live up to it: The wealthy and powerful have rigged the system to perpetuate their privilege; the professional classes have figured out how to pass their advantages on to their children, converting the meritocracy into hereditary aristocracy; colleges that claim to select students on merit give an edge to the sons and daughters of the wealthy and the well-connected. According to this complaint, meritocracy is a myth, a distant promise yet to be redeemed.

73. Based on the passage, which of the following inferences CANNOT be drawn?

(A) Meritocracy is seen by some as an unfulfilled promise, with the system still skewed in favour of the well-connected.

(B) Hereditary privilege is not openly defended but can be perpetuated through policies like the abolition of inheritance taxes.

(C) Equality of opportunity is widely accepted in principle, but there is disagreement about how to achieve it.

(D) Though the wealthy can pass their advantages to their children, wealth and privilege cannot undermine meritocracy.

(E) Meritocracy is a popular ideal in political rhetoric, promoted across the political spectrum.

Correct Answer: (D) Though the wealthy can pass their advantages to their children, wealth and privilege cannot undermine meritocracy.

Solution:

The passage discusses how the wealthy can perpetuate their privilege through policies like the abolition of inheritance taxes and how meritocracy is often a myth due to the systemic

advantages held by the wealthy and well-connected.

- Option A (”Meritocracy is seen by some as an unfulfilled promise, with the system still skewed in favour of the well-connected”): This is true, as the passage mentions that meritocracy is often seen as unfulfilled due to the rigged system favoring the privileged.

- Option B (”Hereditary privilege is not openly defended but can be perpetuated through policies like the abolition of inheritance taxes”): This is true, as the passage explains how hereditary privilege is perpetuated through policies like the abolition of inheritance taxes.

- Option C (”Equality of opportunity is widely accepted in principle, but there is disagreement about how to achieve it”): This is true, as the passage clearly states that equality of opportunity is widely accepted in principle but there is disagreement about its execution.

- Option D (”Though the wealthy can pass their advantages to their children, wealth and privilege cannot undermine meritocracy”): This is false, as the passage states that wealth and privilege do undermine meritocracy, particularly when the well-connected pass their advantages to their children, which perpetuates a hereditary aristocracy rather than a true meritocracy.

- Option E (”Meritocracy is a popular ideal in political rhetoric, promoted across the political spectrum”): This is true, as the passage mentions that meritocracy is promoted by politicians across the political spectrum.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

The passage discusses how meritocracy is often a myth due to the advantages of the wealthy, and wealth and privilege undermine the ideal of equal opportunity.

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74. Which of the following can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) Meritocracy is a utopian system that is difficult to implement as the wealthy rig the system.

(B) Meritocracy is accepted by everyone, but not understood by anyone.

(C) Everybody admires meritocracy, until it is they or their children’s career on the line.

(D) Meritocracy is desired by everybody, but despised by those rejected by it.

(E) In an unequal society, any attempt to execute meritocracy perpetuates inequality.

Correct Answer: (A) Meritocracy is a utopian system that is difficult to implement as the wealthy rig the system.

Solution:

The passage discusses meritocracy as an ideal that is often undermined in practice due to systemic advantages for the wealthy. It mentions that meritocracy is largely promoted in political rhetoric, but in reality, it is often manipulated by the wealthy to preserve their privilege, which makes it difficult to implement.

- Option A ("Meritocracy is a utopian system that is difficult to implement as the wealthy rig the system"): This is the best conclusion, as the passage clearly states that meritocracy is often undermined by the wealthy and their systemic advantages, making it a difficult ideal to achieve.
- Option B ("Meritocracy is accepted by everyone, but not understood by anyone"): This is not stated in the passage. While meritocracy is accepted in principle, the passage focuses more on how it is manipulated, not on a lack of understanding.
- Option C ("Everybody admires meritocracy, until it is they or their children's career on the line"): This option is not directly addressed in the passage, although the passage does imply that meritocracy can be questioned when it does not benefit those at the bottom of the income distribution.
- Option D ("Meritocracy is desired by everybody, but despised by those rejected by it"): While the meritocratic system may be admired, the passage does not claim that it is despised by those who are excluded from it.
- Option E ("In an unequal society, any attempt to execute meritocracy perpetuates inequality"): This is not directly supported by the passage. While the passage does discuss inequality, it does not claim that meritocracy will inevitably perpetuate inequality.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Meritocracy is often an ideal that is undermined by the privileges of the wealthy, making it difficult to fully implement in practice.

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75. Based on the passage, which of the following will the defenders of affirmative action identify as the main problem in the implementation of the meritocratic system?

(A) Meritocratic system rewards individuals based on the outcome they produce.

(B) Meritocratic system intentionally favours the rich.

(C) Meritocratic system is based on structural bias.

(D) Meritocratic system does not acknowledge the initial disadvantages in opportunities.

(E) Meritocratic system supports those having hereditary privileges.

Correct Answer: (D) Meritocratic system does not acknowledge the initial disadvantages in opportunities.

Solution:

The passage presents defenders of affirmative action as arguing that meritocracy is not sufficient to ensure equality of opportunity because it ignores the initial disadvantages faced by individuals, particularly those from discriminated or disadvantaged groups. The meritocratic system assumes that everyone starts with the same opportunities, which is not the case in a society with deep-rooted inequalities.

- Option A (”Meritocratic system rewards individuals based on the outcome they produce”): This is true, but it does not directly address the issue highlighted by defenders of affirmative action, which is the unequal starting points of individuals.
- Option B (”Meritocratic system intentionally favours the rich”): While wealth may play a role in advancement, this is not the main issue that defenders of affirmative action focus on. The main issue is the inequality of opportunity at the start.
- Option C (”Meritocratic system is based on structural bias”): The passage does not focus on structural bias, but rather on how inequality of opportunity leads to the failure of meritocracy in achieving equality.
- Option D (”Meritocratic system does not acknowledge the initial disadvantages in

opportunities"): This is exactly the concern of defenders of affirmative action, as the passage explains that disadvantaged groups may need additional support to achieve equality of opportunity.

- Option E ("Meritocratic system supports those having hereditary privileges"): While the passage discusses how privilege can perpetuate inequality, it is not the primary argument of defenders of affirmative action.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Defenders of affirmative action focus on addressing initial disadvantages and ensuring equal opportunity for all, which is often ignored in a meritocratic system.

General Knowledge

76. Which award is given to outstanding coaches in sports and games in India?

(A) Arjuna Award

(B) Dronacharya Award

(C) Dhyan Chand Award

(D) Vashistha Award

(E) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

Correct Answer: (B) Dronacharya Award

Solution:

The Dronacharya Award is given to outstanding coaches in sports and games in India. The award recognizes coaches who have made significant contributions in training players and have demonstrated excellence in their profession. It is named after the legendary teacher Dronacharya from the Mahabharata.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

The Dronacharya Award specifically honors coaches for their exceptional contribution to sports and the development of players.

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77. Match the following renowned Indian personalities with their respective awards.

Names	Award
1. Shri Ratan Naval Tata	A. Dadasaheb Phalke Award
2. Manmohan Singh	B. Grammy Awards
3. Zakir Hussain	C. Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy
4. Shyam Benegal	D. World Statesman Award

(A) 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

(B) 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B

(C) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A

(D) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D

(E) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C

Correct Answer: (B) 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B

Solution:

Let's match the correct awards with the individuals:

1. Shri Ratan Naval Tata has been awarded the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy for his immense contribution to philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

2. Manmohan Singh received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his leadership and service to the nation.

3. Zakir Hussain, the legendary tabla player, received the World Statesman Award in recognition of his contributions to cultural diplomacy.

4. Shyam Benegal, a famous film director, has received the Grammy Awards for his significant contributions to Indian cinema.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

The correct pairing matches the awards with the individuals based on their contributions in social service, film, and music.

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78. Which term is commonly used to describe the strategy employed by firms where they reduce the product size or quality while maintaining the same price?

(A) Redflation

(B) Skimpflation

(C) Shrinkflation

(D) Inflation

(E) Deflation

Correct Answer: (C) Shrinkflation

Solution:

Shrinkflation is the term used when companies reduce the size or quality of a product while keeping the price the same. This practice is commonly seen in the food and beverage industry, where product packaging might shrink but the price remains unchanged.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Shrinkflation is a common phenomenon where consumers get less value for the same price due to reduced product size or quality.

---

79. Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her space novel, based on the events on a single day, of lives of six astronauts in the international space station as they revolve around the Earth, wondering about what is happening on the Earth.

(A) Orbital

(B) Creation Lake

(C) James

(D) Held

(E) The Safekeep

Correct Answer: (A) Orbital

Solution:

The 2024 Booker Prize for Samantha Harvey's space novel was awarded for "Orbital", a story about astronauts in the International Space Station. The novel explores the lives of six astronauts during a single day in space, while they reflect on their experiences and wonder about life on Earth.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Orbital is the Booker Prize-winning novel that explores the complex emotions and lives of astronauts in space.

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80. In which state is Dhimsa recognized as the official folk dance?

(A) Maharashtra

(B) Jharkhand

(C) Chhattisgarh

(D) Himachal Pradesh

(E) Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer: (E) Andhra Pradesh

Solution:

Dhimsa is a traditional folk dance that is recognized as the official dance of Andhra Pradesh. This dance is popular in the tribal regions of the state and is often performed during festivals and cultural events.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Dhimsa is a traditional folk dance from Andhra Pradesh, performed during various festivals and celebrations.

---

81. Who was the world's first female to be elected as the prime minister of a country?

(A) Golda Meir

(B) Margaret Thatcher

(C) Indira Gandhi

(D) Benazir Bhutto

(E) Sirimavo Bandaranaike

Correct Answer: (E) Sirimavo Bandaranaike

Solution:

The world's first female prime minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka. She was elected in 1960, making history as the first woman to hold such a high office in a country. Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Sirimavo Bandaranaike was the first woman to become a prime minister of a country, specifically in Sri Lanka.

---

82. Who did Gukesh Dommaraju defeat in the finals of the World Chess Championship 2024?

(A) Ding Liren

(B) Hikaru Nakamura

(C) Deep Blue Supercomputer

(D) Ian Nepomniachtchi

(E) Fabiano Caruana

Correct Answer: (D) Ian Nepomniachtchi

Solution:

Gukesh Dommaraju, an Indian chess grandmaster, won the World Chess Championship 2024 by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi in the finals. Ian Nepomniachtchi is a Russian grandmaster who has been a prominent figure in recent chess tournaments.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Gukesh Dommaraju defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi in the 2024 World Chess Championship.

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83. Match the following authors with their respective works:

Authors	Works
1. Gabriel Garcia Marquez	A. The Old Man and the Sea
2. George Orwell	B. To Kill a Mockingbird
3. Harper Lee	C. 1984
4. Ernest Hemingway	D. One Hundred Years of Solitude
5. Jane Austen	E. Pride and Prejudice

(A) 1-E, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C, 5-D

(B) 1-D, 2-E, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A

(C) 1-C, 2-D, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B

(D) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-E

(E) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-E, 5-A

Correct Answer: (B) 1-D, 2-E, 3-C, 4-B, 5-A

Solution:

1. Gabriel Garcia Marquez is the author of One Hundred Years of Solitude, a masterpiece of magical realism.

2. George Orwell wrote the famous dystopian novel 1984.

3. Harper Lee authored the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel To Kill a Mockingbird, which tackles racial issues in the American South.

4. Ernest Hemingway wrote the novella The Old Man and the Sea, a story of perseverance and struggle.

5. Jane Austen is famous for her novel Pride and Prejudice, a classic tale of love and social manners.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

The correct matching pairs the authors with their most famous literary works, based on their significant contributions to literature.

---

84. What is the name of the AI-based app recently launched by the central government of India to provide study materials in regional languages?

(A) Bhasha Sangam

(B) Diksha

(C) Prabandh

(D) Anuvadini

(E) Bhasini

Correct Answer: (E) Bhasini

Solution:

The Bhasini app was launched by the central government of India to provide study materials in regional languages. The app is aimed at making educational resources more accessible and inclusive by offering content in multiple languages.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{E}$.

Quick Tip

Bhasini is an AI-based app launched to enhance educational accessibility in regional languages.

---

85. Where is the world's only floating national park located?

(A) Tripura

(B) Jharkhand

(C) Manipur

(D) Assam

(E) Chhattisgarh

Correct Answer: (C) Manipur

Solution:

The world's only floating national park, Keibul Lamjao, is located in Manipur, India. It is situated on Loktak Lake, which is known for its floating phumdis (floating islands).

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

Keibul Lamjao is the world's only floating national park, located in Manipur, India.

---

86. Which two players made history by winning India's first ever medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships?

(A) Manika Batra Sathiyan Gnanasekaran

(B) Sreeja Akula Mouma Das

(C) Neha Aggarwal Ankita Das

(D) Madhurika Patkar Archana Kamath

(E) Ayhika Mukherjee Sutirtha Mukherjee

Correct Answer: (A) Manika Batra Sathiyan Gnanasekaran

Solution:

Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran made history by winning India's first-ever medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in 2024. They secured a historic bronze medal in the mixed doubles event.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran made history by winning India's first-ever medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships.

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87. Who qualifies for a free e-visa under the "Chalo India" initiative?

(A) Indian tourists

(B) Non-Resident Indians

(C) Non-Indian friends of Indian diaspora

(D) Foreign diplomats

(E) International students interested in higher education

Correct Answer: (C) Non-Indian friends of Indian diaspora

Solution:

Under the "Chalo India" initiative, non-Indian friends of the Indian diaspora are eligible for a free e-visa. This initiative aims to promote tourism and strengthen people-to-people ties between India and the rest of the world.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{C}$.

Quick Tip

The "Chalo India" initiative provides free e-visas to non-Indian friends of the Indian diaspora.

---

88. In which country is Mount Marapi Volcano, which recently erupted, located?

(A) Mexico

(B) China

(C) Panama

(D) Indonesia

(E) United States

Correct Answer: (D) Indonesia

Solution:

Mount Marapi, a highly active volcano, is located in Indonesia. The volcano recently erupted, causing significant concern in the surrounding regions due to its volcanic activity.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

Mount Marapi is an active volcano located in Indonesia, which recently erupted.

---

89. Who holds the position of Supreme Commander-in-chief of India's armed forces?

(A) The Prime Minister

(B) The Chief of Defense Staff

(C) The Defense Minister

(D) The President

(E) The Home Minister

Correct Answer: (D) The President

Solution:

The President of India holds the position of Supreme Commander-in-chief of India's armed forces, as per the Constitution of India.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{D}$.

Quick Tip

The President of India is the Supreme Commander-in-chief of India's armed forces.

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90. Who won the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel 2024 for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity?

(A) Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson & James A. Robinson

(B) Claudia Goldin

(C) Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond & Phillip Dybvig

(D) Paul R. Milgrom & Robert B. Wilson

(E) David Card, Joshua D. Angrist & Guido W. Imbens

Correct Answer: (A) Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson & James A. Robinson

Solution:

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson won the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel in 2024 for their studies on how institutions are formed and how they affect prosperity. Their work has significantly contributed to the field of institutional economics.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson won the Nobel Prize in Economics for their work on institutions and their effects on prosperity.

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91. As of December 31, 2024, which of the following countries is not a NATO member?

(A) Poland

(B) Ukraine

(C) Lithuania

(D) Italy

(E) Turkey

Correct Answer: (B) Ukraine

Solution:

As of December 31, 2024, Ukraine is not a member of NATO. While Ukraine has expressed interest in joining NATO, it is not yet a member as of the end of 2024.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

As of 2024, Ukraine is not a NATO member, though it has expressed interest in joining.

92. Who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024?

(A) Narges Mohammadi

(B) Ales Bialiatski and the Center for Civil Liberties

(C) World Food Programme

(D) Motaz Azaiza

(E) Nihon Hidankyo

Correct Answer: (B) Ales Bialiatski and the Center for Civil Liberties

Solution:

The Nobel Peace Prize 2024 was awarded to Ales Bialiatski and the Center for Civil Liberties for their efforts in promoting human rights and freedom in countries suffering under authoritarian regimes.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

Ales Bialiatski and the Center for Civil Liberties were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024 for their courageous work in advocating for human rights.

93. Match the following airlines with the countries where they are headquartered:

Airlines	Countries
1. Lufthansa	A. United States
2. Qantas	B. United Kingdom
3. Emirates	C. Australia
4. Delta Air Lines	D. Germany
5. British Airways	E. United Arab Emirates

(A) 1-D, 2-C, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B

(B) 1-B, 2-E, 3-D, 4-A, 5-C

(C) 1-A, 2-D, 3-C, 4-E, 5-B

(D) 1-E, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D, 5-A

(E) 1-C, 2-A, 3-E, 4-B, 5-D

Correct Answer: (A) 1-D, 2-C, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B

Solution:

The correct matches of airlines with their headquarters are: 1. Lufthansa is headquartered in Germany (D).

2. Qantas is headquartered in Australia (C).

3. Emirates is headquartered in the United Arab Emirates (E).

4. Delta Air Lines is headquartered in the United States (A).

5. British Airways is headquartered in the United Kingdom (B).

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{A}$.

Quick Tip

Remember the headquarters of famous airlines:

1. Lufthansa - Germany,
2. Qantas - Australia,
3. Emirates - UAE,
4. Delta - USA,
5. British Airways - UK.

---

94. Which company recently acquired MGM Studios to enhance its streaming service content?

(A) Jio

(B) Amazon

(C) Netflix

(D) Disney

(E) Apple

Correct Answer: (B) Amazon

Solution:

Amazon acquired MGM Studios to enhance its streaming content, especially for its Prime Video service. This acquisition was a significant move in the streaming industry to compete with rivals like Netflix and Disney.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

Amazon acquired MGM Studios to boost its Prime Video content library.

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95. Which shipyard built INS Tushil, a stealth guided missile frigate, commissioned on December 9, 2024?

(A) Hong Kong United Dockyards, Hong Kong

(B) Guangzhou Shipyard International, China

(C) Yantar Shipyard, Russia

(D) Naval Group Shipyard, France

(E) Navantia Shipyard, Spain

Correct Answer: (B) Guangzhou Shipyard International, China

Solution:

INS Tushil, a stealth guided missile frigate, was built by Guangzhou Shipyard International in China. The ship was commissioned by the Indian Navy on December 9, 2024.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{B}$.

Quick Tip

INS Tushil was built by Guangzhou Shipyard International, China, and commissioned by the Indian Navy.
