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PASSAGE

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Rani Ma'am



Passage



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Passage



1. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

In today's world, environmental conservation has become increasingly crucial. With the rapid depletion of natural resources and the devastating impact of human activities on the planet, it is essential that we prioritize sustainable practices to protect our environment for future generations. Environmental conservation encompasses a wide range of efforts, including biodiversity preservation, waste reduction, renewable energy adoption, and responsible land and water management.

1. What is the tone of the passage?

1. Critical and skeptical
2. Informative and neutral
3. Optimistic and urgent
4. Pessimistic and fatalistic.

2. Which title best represents the passage?

1. Human Impact on the Environment
2. The Importance of Environmental Conservation
3. The Significance of Renewable Energy
4. The Effects of Climate Change

3. Which inference can be drawn from the passage?

1. Environmental conservation only focuses on waste reduction.
2. Human activities have no impact on the planet's ecosystems.
3. Sustainable practices are necessary to protect the environment.
4. The depletion of natural resources is irreversible.

4. How does the passage connect to the world?

1. By discussing the impact of environmental conservation on wildlife
2. By examining the consequences of pollution on human health
3. By analysing the global efforts to combat climate change
4. By highlighting the depletion of natural resources worldwide

2. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

Technology has transformed the way we live and interact with the world. From the invention of the wheel to the advancements in artificial intelligence, technology continues to shape and influence our society. While it has brought numerous benefits and conveniences, it also presents challenges and implications that need to be carefully considered.

1. Which inference can be drawn from the passage?

1. Technological advancements have no impact on our daily lives
2. Society should be cautious about the implications of technology
3. The development of technology is stagnant and unimportant
4. Technology has only brought positive changes to society

2. How does the passage connect to the world?

1. By analysing the impact of technology on job markets
2. By exploring the historical development of technology

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- 3. By discussing the global adoption of digital devices
- 4. By examining the ethical dilemmas of artificial intelligence

3. Which title best represents the passage?

- 1. The Benefits of Technological Advancements
- 2. The devolution of technology
- 3. The Negative Effects of Technological Innovation
- 4. The Impact of Technology on Society

4. What is the tone of the passage?

- 1. Optimistic and enthusiastic
- 2. Critical and cautionary
- 3. Pessimistic and dismissive
- 4. Partial and informative

3. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals and societies. It equips people with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities necessary for personal and societal development. Education is not limited to formal institutions but also encompasses lifelong learning and self-improvement.

1. Which inference can be drawn from the passage?

- 1. The impact of education on society is negligible
- 2. Education is solely the responsibility of formal institutions
- 3. Learning is only valuable in the early stages of life
- 4. Education is essential for personal and societal development

2. What is the tone of the passage?

- 1. Informative and objective
- 2. Critical and sceptical
- 3. Inspirational and motivational
- 4. Discouraging and pessimistic

3. Which title best represents the passage?

- 1. The Challenges of Modern Education Systems
- 2. The Impact of Education on Societal Progress
- 3. The Benefits of Lifelong Learning
- 4. The Role of Education in Personal Growth

4. How does the passage connect to the world?

- 1. By examining the influence of education on social mobility
- 2. By analysing the impact of education on technological advancements
- 3. By exploring the history of educational philosophies
- 4. By discussing the correlation between education and income levels

4. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

It was fifteen years since Silas Marner had first come to Raveloe; he was then simply a pallid young man, with prominent short-sighted brown eyes, whose appearance would have had nothing strange for people of average culture and experience, but for the villagers near whom he had come to settle it had mysterious peculiarities which corresponded with the exceptional nature of his occupation, and his advent from an unknown region called "North'-ard." So had his way of life: - he invited no comer to step across his door-sill, and he never strolled into the village to drink a pint at the Rainbow, or to gossip at the Wheelwright's: he sought no man or woman,

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save for the purposes of his calling, or in order to supply himself with necessaries; and it was soon clear to the Raveloe lasses that he would never urge one of them to accept him against her will - quite as if he had heard them declare that they would never marry a dead man come to life again.

1. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. The Wheelwright 2. Raveloe
3. Raveloe Lasses 4. Silas Marner

2. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. Silas Marner was a strange man, who had no friends in town, he didn't interact with anyone.
2. When Silas first came to town he was just 5 years old.
3. All the people of Raveloe like Silas for his true nature.
4. Silas gelled well with the crowd.

3. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. At first when Silas came to Raveloe he seemed to be a pallid young man.
2. Silas Marner wasn't a social butterfly.
3. Silas Marner first came to the town 15 years ago.
4. All the young women in Raveloe liked Silas and wanted to marry him

4. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'...soon clear to the Raveloe (lasses) that he...'

- 1. elders 2. young women
3. country people 4. children

5. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Advertisement technique used to promote social awareness about issues like environment protection or saving endangered animals is called social advertisements. Social advertising is also used to inform the public about government sponsored programs like the Pulse Polio campaign or family planning. This kind of advertising is different from commercial advertising, which is used to promote commercial products or services. Both government and non government organizations play an active role in social advertising.

1. Choose the suitable title for the passage.

- A. Social advertisement
B. Advertisement and its benefit
C. Commercial advertisement D. Advertisement

2. Identify the structure of the passage.

- A. Informative B. Comparison
C. Cause and effect D. Chronological order

3. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Introspective B. Speculative
C. Humanistic D. Humorous

4. Select the antonym of the following word:

ENDANGERED

- A. Invulnerable B. Exposed
C. Prone D. Unsecured

5. Identify the central theme of the passage.

- A. The passage is all about social advertisement and its benefit.
B. The passage is about advertisement, its type.
C. The passage is all about advertisement.
D. The passage is about benefits of advertisement

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6. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The playground is as essential as the class room. The student learns his lesson of the mind in the class room and adds to his store of knowledge. But the playground trains his powers of mind and body both. Here he learns physical skills and endurance. He further learns how to remain alert and watchful; how to get an advantage over his opponent. Thus the student gets physical and mental training on the playground together. But the greatest good derived by him is that he learns the team spirit. He is governed by no selfish or individual motives. This team spirit helps him to fight for nobler causes in later life.

1. Choose the correct antonym for the word: Endurance

- A. Apathy B. Grit C. Fortitude D. Mettle

2. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Biased B. Informative C. Apologetic D. Humorous

3. Identify the central theme of the passage.

- A. Importance of playground and its benefits for students. B. Physical and mental training C. School and playground. D. Team spirit

4. Identify the structure of the passage.

- A. Cause / effect B. Descriptive C. Chronology/time order D. Sequence/process

5. Select the appropriate title for the passage.

- A. School and its activities. B. Playground and its benefit for students. C. School and playground.

D. Importance of playground in a school

7. Read the following passage and answer the given questions:

Vivienne didn't have it easy. A single mother, born to working class parents in 1941 near Manchester, the self-taught designer started by taking classics like T-shirts and slashing them, rolling up the sleeves, writing things on them—as punks did. Then, in the 1980s, she became enamoured of high culture and began doing the most beautifully draped evening gowns on the ramp. Look at her trajectory: she was mostly a sportswear and loungewear designer, but she took fabrics and she played with them. She used a little cotton, she used plaid, she did knits. She's the one that brought the giant platform shoes with the 13-inch heels that Naomi Campbell stumbled over on the ramp wearing. The Gillies heels that Westwood launched in 1993 in her 'Anglomania' collection is a style that was originally made in Scotland over 500 years ago. She put the bustle into the mini skirt and took corsetry to another level.

1. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Bitter B. Sarcastic C. Humorous D. Laudatory

2. Identify the synonym of the word 'trajectory' used in the passage.

- A. Path B. Collection C. Record D. Portfolio

3. What is the meaning of the word 'enamoured' used in the passage?

- A. Disliking something B. Liking something or someone a lot C. Fearing something D. Respecting something

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4. Which of the following is not a fact cited in the passage?

- A. Vivienne was born in the year 1941.
B. Vivienne invented the mini skirt.
C. Vivienne was mostly a sportswear and loungewear designer.
D. Vivienne used cotton, plaid and knits in her garments.

5. What is the central theme of the passage?

- A. How heels evolved B. Fashion in Britain
C. Influence of Scotland on fashion
D. Vivienne's work

8. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

In the autumn I returned to my Southern home with a heart full of joyous memories. As I recall that visit North I am filled with wonder at the richness and variety of the experiences that cluster about it. It seems to have been the beginning of everything. The treasures of a new, beautiful world were laid at my feet, and I took in pleasure and information at every turn. I lived myself into all things. I was never still a moment; my life was as full of motion as those little insects that crowd a whole existence into one brief day. I met many people who talked with me by spelling into my hand, and thought in joyous sympathy leaped up to meet thought, and behold, a miracle had been wrought! The barren places between my mind and the minds of others blossomed like the rose.

1. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. The writer describes his visit to North and how rich and active his life was there.

- 2. The writer felt lethargic during his visit to the North.
3. The writer did not like his life back in his southern home.
4. The writer felt like an insect, always working for survival.

2. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. One Brief Day 2. The North Visit
3. The Insects 4. Blossom like Rose

3. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'...I was never still a moment; my life was as full of (motion) as those little insects...'

- 1. indifference 2. inertia
3. cessation 4. dynamic

4. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. The writer returned to his southern home with a heart full of joyous memories.
2. The writer met many people during his visit to the North.
3. It was almost like a miracle.
4. The writer's life had become too dull during the visit.

9. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

Now, dear Victor, I dare say you wish to be indulged in a little gossip concerning the good people of Geneva. The pretty Miss Mansfield has already received the congratulatory visits on her approaching

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marriage with a young Englishman, John Melbourne, Esq. Her ugly sister,

Manon, married M. Duillard, the rich banker, last autumn. Your favourite schoolfellow, Louis Manoir, has suffered several misfortunes since the departure of Clerval from Geneva. But he has already recovered his spirits, and is reported to be on the point of marrying a very lively, pretty Frenchwoman, Madame Tavernier. She is a widow, and much older than Manoir, but she is very much admired and a favourite with everybody. I have written myself into better spirits, dear cousin; but my anxiety returns upon me as I conclude. Write, dearest Victor - one line - one word will be a blessing to us. Ten thousand thanks to Henry for his kindness, his affection, and his many letters; we are sincerely grateful. Adieu! My cousin, take care of yourself, and, I entreat you, write!Your cousin Elizabeth.

1. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. The Letter 2. Mr Victor 3. The Cousin 4. The Ugly Sister

2. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'...I dare say you wish to be (indulged) in a little gossip...'

- 1. entertained 2. materialised 3. civilized 4. reasonable

3. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. Victor has left his house and Elizabeth has written to him ask about his whereabouts. 2. Elizabeth is Victor's mother and has written to him to know of his whereabouts.

3. Elizabeth is a misinformed woman and she likes to talk ill of people.

4. Elizabeth has written a letter to Victor, as she is concerned about him and also gossips about the people of Geneva.

4. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. Manoir is older than Madame Tavernier. 2. Miss Mansfield is getting married to John Melbourne. 3. Louis Manoir is Victor's schoolfellow. 4. Madame Tavernier is a pretty French woman who is a widow

10. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

In the mother's eyes there could be no comparison between Vronsky and Levin. She disliked in Levin his strange and uncompromising opinions and his shyness in society, founded, as she supposed, on his pride and his queer sort of life, as she considered it, absorbed in cattle and peasants. She did not very much like it that he, who was in love with her daughter, had kept coming to the house for six weeks, as though he were waiting for something, inspecting, as though he were afraid, he might be doing them too great an honour by making an offer, and did not realize that a man, who continually visits at a house where there is a young unmarried girl, is bound to make his intentions clear. And suddenly, without doing so, he disappeared. 'It's as well he's not attractive enough for Kitty to have fallen in love with him,' thought the mother. Vronsky satisfied all the mother's desires. Very wealthy, clever, of aristocratic family, on the highroad to a brilliant career in the army.

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1. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. The Suitable Match 2. Levin 3. Vronsky 4. Mother's Favourite

2. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. Vronsky and Levin are brothers. 2. Vronsky is not keen on marrying Kitty. 3. The mother preferred Levin over Vronsky for her daughter. 4. The mother is looking for a suitable marriage prospect for her daughter.

3. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. The mother liked Vronsky as he satisfied all her desires. 2. The mother did not appreciate Levin's coming to her house so frequently. 3. Levin visited the mother's house for about 6 weeks before disappearing. 4. Vronsky was a wealthy business man.

4. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'... on his pride and his (queer) sort of life ...'

- 1. aristocratic 2. strange 3. inconsiderate 4. poor

11. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, was a man of humble beginnings who rose to

become one of America's most iconic leaders. Born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1809, he experienced hardship and limited formal education. Despite this, he was an avid reader and largely self-taught.

Lincoln's life took a significant turn when he entered politics, winning a seat in the Illinois state legislature. His eloquence and moral integrity propelled him further, and in 1860, he was elected President during a tumultuous period of American history - just before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Throughout his presidency, Lincoln faced immense challenges, struggling to preserve the Union and abolish slavery. His unwavering determination and remarkable leadership guided the nation through its darkest hours. His most enduring legacy was the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, which paved the way for the abolition of slavery.

Sadly, Abraham Lincoln's life was cut short when he was assassinated in 1865, just days after the Civil War ended. His vision of a united and equal America, however, continues to inspire generations, making him an indelible figure in the annals of history

1. What tone does the passage adopt when describing Abraham Lincoln?

- 1. Detached and Objective 2. Admiring and Reverential 3. Critical and Analytical 4. Compassionate and Sympathetic

2. Which statement connects Abraham Lincoln's life to the world?

- 1. Abraham Lincoln's vision of a united and equal America continues to inspire generations worldwide. 2. Abraham Lincoln's early struggles in a log cabin shaped his moral integrity and eloquence. 3. The Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for the abolition of slavery in America.

Passage



4. Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States in 1860.

3. What is the central theme of the passage?

1. Abraham Lincoln's Impact on American History
2. Abraham Lincoln's Early Struggles and Education
3. The Legacy of Abraham Lincoln's Leadership
4. The Civil War and Slavery Abolition

4. Which of the following titles best represents the passage?

1. "The Life and Achievements of Abraham Lincoln"
2. "From Log Cabin to Presidency: The Story of Abraham Lincoln"
3. "The Impact of Abraham Lincoln on American History"
4. "Abraham Lincoln's Political Journey and Legacy"

12. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Madame Curie, a pioneering scientist and the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, led a remarkable life of groundbreaking discoveries and unwavering dedication to science. Born as Marie Skłodowska in Poland in 1867, she faced gender-based obstacles to education, but her passion for learning led her to study in Paris. In 1898, Marie and her husband, Pierre Curie, discovered two new radioactive elements, polonium and radium, a feat that earned them the Nobel Prize in Physics. Undeterred by personal tragedy after Pierre's untimely death, she continued her research and became the first person to win a second Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, for her work on radioactivity. Despite facing discrimination as a female scientist, Madame Curie's determination and brilliance shone through. Her groundbreaking research laid the foundation for modern nuclear physics and medical advancements, making her an

enduring symbol of scientific excellence and a trailblazer for women in STEM fields. Madame Curie's legacy continues to inspire generations of aspiring scientists worldwide.

1. Which title best represents the passage?

1. Marie Skłodowska: A Life of Perseverance and Discovery
2. Gender Discrimination in the Scientific World: Madame Curie's Struggles
3. The Nobel Prize and Its Impact on Modern Science
4. Madame Curie and Her Nobel Prize-Winning Discoveries

2. Which statement connects the facts from the passage to the world?

1. The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Marie Skłodowska Curie posthumously.
2. Marie Skłodowska Curie's struggle against gender-based obstacles inspired the feminist movement worldwide.
3. Madame Curie's research on radioactivity laid the foundation for modern nuclear weapons.
4. Madame Curie's discoveries of polonium and radium paved the way for advancements in nuclear medicine.

3. What is the central theme of the passage?

1. The Nobel Prize-Winning Discoveries of Marie Skłodowska Curie
2. Marie Skłodowska Curie: A Trailblazer in Nuclear Physics
3. Madame Curie's Struggles Against Gender Discrimination
4. Scientific Advancements and Modern Medical Breakthroughs

Passage



4. What tone does the passage adopt when describing Madame Curie?

- 1. Critical and Condescending
2. Indifferent and Dispassionate
3. Sympathetic and Sorrowful
4. Admiring and Reverentia

13. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

In digital environments, social media means interaction between individuals in which they generate, communicate and transfer thoughts and knowledge. Being social has become a fundamental need, demonstrating the effectiveness of humans. People who were unheard are now able to access information and have a voice because of the magnificent advancements in communication systems. The present generation has the privilege of witnessing some of the most incredible technological advancements in the history of mankind.

1. Identify a suitable title for the passage.

- 1. Media and Voices 2. Utility of Social Media
3. Use of Social Media
4. Media and Communication

2. Identify the tone of the passage.

- 1. Rational 2. Assertive
3. Satirical 4. Scientific

3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Privilege

- 1. Prerogative 2. Disadvantage
3. Loss 4. Disabled

4. What does the word 'social' illustrate in the passage?

- 1. The subjectivity of humans
2. The effectiveness of humans
3. The growth of humans 4. The lack of humans

5. Identify the central theme of the passage.

- 1. Media and technology
2. Media and narration
3. Facts and advantages of media
4. Media and voice of the voiceless

14. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

In the three days since schools reopened for junior students after two years, teachers are missing the familiar buzz in classrooms and have found a section of students to be unusually quiet. Some students are 'withdrawn', their social skills having been impacted by the long closure of schools. Teachers and counsellors are hopeful this would pass soon and till then they would have to be patient with the children and keep a close eye on their behaviour.

"Children might have developed behavioural problems such as screen addiction and restlessness. They might have become impulsive and are not attentive to lessons. Teachers have to be proactive about the mental health of the child," said the psychiatrist.

1. What does 'keep a close eye' mean, according to the context?

- 1. Ignorance 2. Constant observation
3. A careless attitude 4. Blindness

Passage



2. What are the teachers missing after the schools reopened?

1. Screen addiction and restlessness
2. Unusually quiet classroom environment
3. Presence of students
4. Buzz in classrooms

3. Which of the following describes the most appropriate meaning of 'withdrawn' according to the context?

1. Hyperactive
2. Aggressive
3. Idle
4. Lost in themselves

4. According to the psychiatrist, which type of problems might children have developed?

1. Retention
2. Punctuality
3. Behavioural problems
4. Physical problems

5. How long has it been since the schools reopened?

1. Two days
2. Three days
3. Two years
4. Three years

15. Read the following passage and answer the given questions:

The Union government's proposed measures for regulating online gaming in a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 leave several questions unanswered. Some of these proposed measures, such as the establishment of a self-regulatory body, collection of know-your-customer (KYC) information from players and appointment of a grievance officer within the company, are already in place. These are moves that industry bodies representing such companies have encouraged.

States such as Tamil Nadu want much stricter regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre in the draft, particularly for gambling with real money. The Centre's draft remains ambiguous on the question of whether States can have additional restrictions. So far, the industry has staved off several bans by mounting legal challenges arguing that they offer games of skill and not those purely dependent on chance—a tenuous distinction for real money gaming. Still, games that require wagering are outlawed in the physical form under the colonial Public Gambling Act 1867 or States' own gambling laws. A clear answer should come from the Union Government on whether States are empowered to prohibit these games online as they do offline.

1. Which of the following is not a fact cited in the passage?

- A. Games that require wagering are outlawed in the physical form.
- B. States such as Tamil Nadu want lesser regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre.
- C. KYC is Know Your Customer.
- D. Draft amendment to IT rules 2021 was proposed by the Union Government.

2. What is the central theme of the passage?

- A. Union Government versus State Government
- B. Regulation of online games in India
- C. Ill effects of online games
- D. IT rules 2021 and Public Gambling Act 1867 – pros and cons

3. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Laudatory
- B. Cynical
- C. Critical
- D. Bitter

Passage



4. Identify the synonym of the word 'restriction' used in the passage.

- A. Allowance
- B. Proposal
- C. Draft
- D. Limitation

5. What is the meaning of the word 'wagering' used in the passage?

- A. Wagging
- B. Betting
- C. Investing
- D. Lending

16. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

About 76,000 years ago, a massive Toba-volcanic eruption took place in Indonesia in which sulfuric acid rained over the earth and about 3000 kilometres of land was covered with magma. Indian land was also showered by volcanic ash, which remains deposited on the ground even today.

Contrary to all prior logics, in January 2018, stone tools were found in southern and northern parts of India, both below and above the ash. These tools were quite like the ones which humans created in Africa. Thus, it became clear that homo sapiens lived on Indian land even before that volcanic eruption. The findings also gave an idea that the super-eruption led to a massive environmental destruction and many people would have lost their lives.

The team comprising of scientists from India and Germany discovered fossil of an extinct marine reptile in the Kutch desert, Gujarat, in October 2017. They identified the specimen with Ophthalmosauridae, a family of ichthyosaurs which lived in the oceans between 165 and 90 million years ago. The fossil was found inside rocks from the Mesozoic Era, marking a

Jurassic record in India and proving some sort of biological connectivity of India with the other continents of Jurassic world. It gives us a nudge that

a lot more could be discovered here from that thrilling era.

1. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. Fossils are found after excavation in ancient debris or rocks in areas identified by scientists.
- B. Stone tools provide proof of human inhabitation much before the volcanic movement began.
- C. Slight indications of archaeological evidence spark interest in excavation sites across continents.
- D. Any volcanic eruption covers only several kilometres of land in the vicinity.

2. Which of the following is the most appropriate summary of the passage?

- A. A team comprising scientists from India and Germany discovered the fossil of an extinct marine reptile in the Kutch desert, Gujarat, in October 2017. They identified the specimen as an ichthyosaur.
- B. A team of scientists made unusual revelations about a sulfuric ash covering parts of India. Stone tools were found above and below the ash giving indications of life resembling that in Africa. Further, they also found the fossil of an ichthyosaur, probably of the Jurassic period.
- C. A fossil was found under the volcanic ash that was dispersed over southern and northern parts of India. Many lives were lost in the volcanic super-eruption which led to a massive environmental destruction.
- D. Many fossils were found under the volcanic ash that was dispersed over southern and northern parts of India. The eruption had caused massive environmental destruction but scientists were excited by the discovery of the extinct marine reptile in the Kutch desert, Gujarat.

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3. The volcanic eruption took place:

- A. 165 million years ago
- B. 76 million years ago
- C. 90 million years ago
- D. 3 million years ago

4. The central theme of the passage is:

- A. the discovery of a remains of an extinct marine reptile
- B. the causes of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia
- C. the volcanic ash that covered parts of India
- D. the connections between India and Africa

5. The word 'extinct' as used in the passage CANNOT be replaced by the word:

- A. vanished
- B. non-existent
- C. defunct
- D. redundant

17. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

Social media's revolutionary impact on communication, connection, and information sharing has transformed our lives. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram enable instant global connectivity, breaking down barriers and fostering cross-cultural exchanges. It empowers activists to mobilize support and raise awareness for social and political causes.

However, the widespread use of social media also presents challenges. Privacy and data security concerns arise due to the vast amounts of personal information shared. Misinformation spreads rapidly, influencing public opinion and contributing to a polarized information environment. Furthermore, the addictive nature of social media raises mental health concerns, as constant connectivity and pressure to maintain an idealized online image can lead to anxiety.

Balancing the benefits with the drawbacks is crucial. Social media's impact on society requires thoughtful regulation and ongoing assessment. While it opens up unparalleled opportunities, it demands responsible use to foster positive change and minimize negative consequences. As social media continues to evolve, its role in our lives and the world will remain a subject of exploration and adaptation.

1. How does the passage connect to the world?

- 1. By analysing the impact of social media on business marketing
- 2. By examining the psychological effects of social media usage
- 3. By discussing the role of social media in political movements
- 4. By exploring the history of social media platforms

2. Which inference can be drawn from the passage?

- 1. Society should be aware of the potential consequences of social media usage
- 2. Online communication is inherently dangerous and harmful
- 3. Social media has no impact on society and daily life
- 4. Social media is solely responsible for the breakdown of personal relationships

3. Which title best represents the passage?

- 1. The Effects of Social Media on Personal Relationships
- 2. The Rise of Social Media Platforms
- 3. The Dangers of Online Communication
- 4. The Impact of Social Media on Society

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4. What is the tone of the passage?

- 1. Balanced and objective
- 2. Alarmist and exaggerated
- 3. Optimistic and celebratory
- 4. Cynical and dismissive

18. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

His voice faded off and Tom glanced impatiently around the garage. Then I heard footsteps on a stair and in a moment the thickish figure of a woman blocked out the light from the office door. She was in the middle thirties, and faintly stout, but she carried her surplus flesh sensuously as some women can. Her face, above a spotted dress of dark blue crepe-dechine, contained no facet or gleam of beauty but there was an immediately perceptible vitality about her as if the nerves of her body were continually smouldering. She smiled slowly and walking through her husband as if he were a ghost shook hands with Tom, looking him flush in the eye. Then she wet her lips and without turning around spoke to her husband in a soft, coarse voice: 'Get some chairs, why don't you, so somebody can sit down.'

1. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. The woman was slim and beautiful.
- 2. Tom glanced impatiently around the garage.
- 3. The woman came down the stairs.
- 4. The woman walked by her husband as if he weren't present there.

2. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. Unwanted Presence
- 2. The Beautiful Woman

- 3. The Unknown Woman
- 4. The Ghost

3. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'as if the nerves of her body were continually (smouldering).'

- 1. tanning
- 2. flaming
- 3. freezing
- 4. bored

4. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. The three people in the room were having tea.
- 2. The woman brought chairs for more people to sit.
- 3. The woman greeted Tom and asked her husband to get more chairs.
- 4. There were only two people in the room, the lady, her husband.

19. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

After Mrs. Hall had left the room, he remained standing in front of the fire, glaring, so Mr. Henfrey puts it, at the clock-mending. Mr. Henfrey not only took off the hands of the clock, and the face, but extracted the works; and he tried to work in as slow and quiet and unassuming a manner as possible. He worked with the lamp close to him, and the green shade threw a brilliant light upon his hands, and upon the frame and wheels, and left the rest of the room shadowy. When he looked up, coloured patches swam in his eyes. Being constitutionally of a curious nature, he had removed the works-a quite unnecessary proceeding-with the idea of delaying his departure and perhaps falling into conversation with the stranger.

Passage



But the stranger stood there, perfectly silent and still. So still, it got on Henfrey's nerves. He felt alone in the room and looked up, and there, grey and dim, was the bandaged head and huge blue lenses staring fixedly, with a mist of green spots drifting in front of them. It was so uncanny to Henfrey that for a minute they remained staring blankly at one another.

1. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'It was so (uncanny) to Henfrey that for a minute...'

- 1. obvious
- 2. usual
- 3. astonishing
- 4. painful

2. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. The stranger was assisting Mr Henfrey with repairing the clock.
- 2. Mr Henfrey was repairing the watch he had broken.
- 3. Mr Henfrey had a dull and incurious nature.
- 4. Mr Henfrey was a clock smith.

3. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. Uncanny curiosity
- 2. Coloured Patches
- 3. The clock smith
- 4. Glowing Light

4. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. Mr Henfrey wanted to have a conversation with the stranger.
- 2. Mr Henfrey saw the clock and started working on it.
- 3. Mr Henfrey was getting irritated because of the silence in the room.
- 4. Mrs Hall was the stranger's mother.

20. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

After submitting his resignation, Albert came out and took the long narrow was one of the busiest roads in the city. Sad and depressed and worried about looking for a new job, Albert looked around for a cigarette shop. He walked up to the end of the road but found no tobacconist. It was odd that such a busy thoroughfare with thousands of people passing through did not even have a single cigarette shop. He suddenly felt that it was no longer necessary for him to hunt for a job. He decided open a tobacco shop himself. It was bound to be profitable, he felt.

1. After submitting his resignation, Albert came out worried about

- (A) a job
- (B) the next available train
- (C) a shelter
- (D) cigarettes

2. Albert was sad and depressed because

- (A) he was worried about finding a job
- (B) he was not able to buy cigarettes
- (C) he had had to walk on a long road
- (D) he had no money for the train journey

3. There was no cigarette shop on that road because

- (A) cigarette-shop owners do not make any profit
- (B) it was a very narrow road
- (C) just by chance nobody had opened one on that road
- (D) smoking is banned in that area

4. Albert decided not to look for a new job because

- (A) he saw the possibility of self employment
- (B) there was no hope of finding a job
- (C) he did not want to work at all

Passage



(D) the thought of having to look for a job greatly distressed him

5. A cigarette shop on a busy road was bound to be profitable because

- (A) a cigarette shop on a busy road would attract a large number of customers
(B) cigarettes are inexpensive items and people buy them willingly
(C) any shop on a busy street would attract a large number of customers
(D) cigarette shops are known to make a great deal of profit

21. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

The apartment was on the top floor-a small living room, a small dining room, a small bedroom and a bath. The living room was crowded to the doors with a set of tapestried furniture entirely too large for it so that to move about was to stumble continually over scenes of ladies swinging in the gardens of Versailles. The only picture was an over-enlarged photograph, apparently a hen sitting on a blurred rock. Looked at from a distance however the hen resolved itself into a bonnet and the countenance of a stout old lady beamed down into the room. Several old copies of 'Town Tattle' lay on the table together with a copy of 'Simon Called Peter' and some of the small scandal magazines of Broadway. Mrs. Wilson was first concerned with the dog. A reluctant elevator boy went for a box full of straw and some milk to which he added on his own initiative a tin of large hard dog biscuits - one of which decomposed apathetically in the saucer of milk all afternoon.

1. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. The bedroom was crowded with furniture too large for the space.

- 2. The boy wasn't Mrs. Wilson's son.
3. The living room had a large picture.
4. The elevator boy had with him a saucer of milk in which was a dog biscuit.

2. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'...into a bonnet and the (countenance) of a stout old lady...'

- 1. acceptance 2. absence
3. counter 4. appearance

3. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. The Tiny Apartment 2. Simon Called Peter
3. Saucer of Milk 4. Town Tattle

4. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. The elevator boy was also the house help at the apartment.
2. The apartment belonged to a writer.
3. Mrs. Wilson wanted to sell the house.
4. The tiny house was overly decorated and crowded.

22. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

As legend has it, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of Mars, the god of war. They had been left to drown in a basket on the Tiber river by a king of a nearby region and were rescued by a she-wolf. The twins lived to defeat that king and founded their own city on the river's banks in 753 B.C. After killing his brother, Romulus became the first king of Rome, which is named after him. A line of Sabine, Latin and Etruscan (earlier Italian

Passage



civilisations) kings followed in a non-hereditary succession.

Rome's era as a monarchy ended in 509 B.C. with the overthrow of its seventh king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, whom ancient historians portrayed as cruel and tyrannical, compared to his benevolent predecessors. Rome now turned from a monarchy into a republic. The power of the monarch passed to two annually elected magistrates called consuls. They also served as commanders-in-chief of the army. The magistrates, though elected by the people, were largely the descendants of the original senators from the time of Romulus.

In 450 B.C., the first Roman law code was inscribed on 12 bronze tablets—known as the Twelve Tables—and publicly displayed in the Roman Forum. These laws included issues of legal procedure, civil rights and property rights and provided the basis for all future Roman civil laws. By around 300 B.C. real political power in Rome was centered in the Senate.

1. Which of the following is NOT an earlier Italian civilisation as mentioned in the passage?

- 1. Latin 2. Roman 3. Sabine 4. Etruscan

2. Lucius Tarquinius was overthrown because he was a:

- 1. non-hereditary king 2. cruel monarch 3. descendent of Romulus 4. generous ruler

3. What is the passage mainly about?

- 1. The Republic of Rome 2. The history of Rome 3. Roman myths and legends 4. The Roman code of law

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- 1. Twelve Tables is the Roman code of law. 2. Romulus and Remus founded the city of Rome.

3. Consuls were elected every two years by the people.

4. Elected magistrates served as commanders-in-chief

5. Rome became a republic in _____.

- 1. 509 B.C. 2. 300 B.C. 3. 753 B.C. 4. 450 B.C.

23. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

The history of Native Americans is one of rich cultural diversity and resilience, dating back thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. The indigenous peoples of North America inhabited a vast range of territories, each with unique traditions, languages, and belief systems.

For countless generations, Native Americans lived in harmony with the land, relying on hunting, fishing, and agriculture for sustenance. They developed intricate social structures and artistic expressions that celebrated their deep connection to nature.

However, the arrival of European colonists in the 15th century brought significant challenges to the Native American way of life. Forced removal from ancestral lands, disease, and conflict resulted in the tragic loss of millions of lives and the disruption of their cultures.

Despite enduring centuries of adversity and systemic oppression, Native Americans have shown remarkable resilience and continue to preserve their heritage and traditions. Efforts to reclaim ancestral lands, revitalize languages, and promote cultural awareness are integral to their ongoing story.

Today, Native Americans contribute to the diverse tapestry of American society while advocating for their rights, recognition, and the protection of their

Passage



unique cultural identities. Acknowledging and respecting the histories and contributions of Native Americans are vital steps toward fostering understanding and appreciation for their enduring legacy.

1. What tone does the passage adopt when describing Native Americans?

1. Reverential and Respectful
2. Critical and Judgemental
3. Sympathetic and Emotional
4. Indifferent and Unconcerned

2. What is the central theme of the passage?

1. The Impact of European Colonization on Native Americans
2. The Loss of Native American Lives due to Disease and Conflict
3. Native American Traditions and Cultural Expressions
4. The Ongoing Struggle for Native American Rights and Recognition

3. Which statement connects facts from the passage to the world?

1. The arrival of European colonists led to the eradication of Native American cultures.
2. Native Americans relied on agriculture for sustenance and survival.
3. Native Americans contribute to the diverse tapestry of American society today.
4. The preservation of Native American languages has not been a priority in recent times.

4. Which title best represents the passage?

1. Native American Traditions and Cultures

2. The Resilience of Native Americans Throughout History

3. European Colonization and Its Impact on Native Americans

4. The Struggle for Recognition: Native American Rights Today

24. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Supreme Court's timely intervention has halted the forcible eviction of some 50,000 people from Haldwani in Uttarakhand, where the occupants are accused of squatting on railway property for decades. The Uttarakhand High Court had taken a tough stand against the residents and passed a slew of directions that would have entailed their eviction within a week, backed by force, including the deployment of paramilitary forces. It is significant that the Bench underscored the human angle to the issue and spoke about the need for rehabilitation before eviction while staying the order. In an earlier round of litigation over the same land, which adjoins the Haldwani Railway Station, court orders had allowed proceedings against individual occupants under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971, to be completed. This time, too, it was on a PIL that the High Court had passed its orders.

Conflicts between occupants of public land and the state that wants to reclaim the land are a never-ending saga in the country. A shortage of housing as well as inadequate recognition of the right to shelter means that large masses of people encroach on vacant land, be in on the bed of water bodies or government property. This often leads to attempts to evict the occupants and spawns litigation. Invariably, there are claims to occupancy rights based on long years of stay at the same location.

Passage



1. Which of the following is not a fact cited in the passage?

- A. Uttarakhand High Court order included deployment of paramilitary forces for eviction.
- B. 50,000 people were to be evicted in Haldwani.
- C. Litigation is over the land adjoining Haldwani airport.
- D. Haldwani is in Uttarakhand.

2. Identify the synonym of the word 'spawns' used in the passage.

- A. Destroys
- B. Feeds
- C. Creates
- D. Nourishes

3. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Sarcastic
- B. Laudatory
- C. Critical
- D. Bitter

4. What is the meaning of the word 'eviction' used in the passage?

- A. The act of forcing someone to stay in a place
- B. The act of forcing someone to pay a bribe
- C. The act of forcing someone to commit a crime
- D. The act of forcing someone to leave a place

5. What is the central theme of the passage?

- A. Government land – pros and cons
- B. Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971
- C. Supreme court versus High court
- D. Stay against Uttarakhand High Court eviction order

25. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

My path to the house was by no means an easy one. After confused wanderings through tangled hedges, struggling with obstacles that looked strange to me in the surrounding gloom, I arrived in front of a long, low building. There, to my astonishment, I found doors and windows open to the pervading mist, except for one square window through which a light shone from a row of candles on a long mahogany table. The quiet and apparent emptiness of this odd and picturesque building made me pause. I am not much affected by the appearance of things, but this silent place, with its sinister atmosphere, made me feel uneasy. I was about to reconsider and go back to the road, when a second look at the comfortable interior I was leaving, convinced me that I was being foolish and sent me straight back to the door which stood open so invitingly. But half-way up the path, my progress was halted by the sight of a man coming out of the house that I had wrongly assumed to be empty. He seemed to be in a hurry and, at the moment when I first saw him, was busy putting his watch back in his pocket. He did not shut the door behind him, which I thought odd, especially as he had been looking behind him. He seemed to take in all the details of the place he was so hurriedly leaving. As we met, he raised his hat. This also struck me as unusual, for he displayed more respect than that usually shown to strangers. I was further puzzled that he showed little surprise at bumping into another person in these remote, misty surroundings. Indeed, he was so little impressed by my being there that he nearly passed me without a word or any other hint of greeting, except the raising of his hat. But this did not satisfy me. I was hungry, cold, and eager for creature comforts, and the house before me offered not only warmth, but gave out an inviting smell of food being cooked which was difficult to ignore.

Passage



1. Which of these can be inferred about the narrator?

- 1. He was thankful. 2. He was foolish.
- 3. He was a coward. 4. He was observant.

2. Why was the narrator shocked when he reached the building?

- 1. The house was gloomy and seemed haunted.
- 2. The narrator was welcomed by a stranger.
- 3. The doors and windows were open in the misty weather.
- 4. The interiors were inviting despite the ominous atmosphere

3. The given extract is

- 1. a travelogue 2. a report
- 3. a narrative 4. a biography

4. Select the most appropriate meaning of the word 'pervading' as used in the passage.

- 1. spreading 2. receding
- 3. eerie 4. immortal

Which of these statements is NOT true?

- 1. The narrator first contemplated going back to the road.
- 2. The stranger was in a hurry to leave the building.
- 3. The narrator was seeking food and shelter.
- 4. The stranger leaving the house was its owner

26. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Academics has always been an essential part of human development. It prepares us to survive in the outside world and establish an identity of our own. In India, from an early age we have been taught that

education is limited to the boundaries of academics only; the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining practical experience is always considered a hoax. This has hindered students' development. In the 21st century, the pure academic type of education is slowly paving way for a whole new type. The shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education should focus on students' overall development, rather than restricting him/her to the classroom. Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom help in the growth of the child, in more than one way. Participating in such activities helps youngsters grow mentally, socially and individually. Intellectual development of a student takes place in the classroom, but for the aesthetic development such as team-building, character-building and physical growth, students must step out into the outside world. Similarly, in colleges and institutions, there is a need for practical exposure so that the students can experience the actual working of an industry. Most professional colleges including B-schools, have started providing practical exposure to students through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences and so on. Guest lectures are very important for all- round development of students as guest speakers talk about their real- life experiences and not what is there in the text books. Through such events students are made to participate and coordinate different events wherein, they get to know how exactly things are managed. Classroom teaching provides the foundation, and co-curricular or extra-curricular activities provide practical exposure and opportunities to implement what students learn in the classroom. This helps in developing the overall personality of the students, inculcating various soft-skills in them, which otherwise are difficult to teach.

Passage



1. Select the correct meaning of 'implement' as used in the passage.

- 1. inculcate
- 2. coordinate
- 3. enforce
- 4. commence

2. The new education system has shifted focus o

- 1. social and aesthetic development
- 2. intellectual development
- 3. academic development
- 4. spiritual development

3. What is the passage mainly about?

- 1. Preparing students for survival in the real world
- 2. Importance of teaching soft skills to students
- 3. The need to change the education system in 21st century
- 4. Participation of students in extra-curricular activities

4. What has hindered the development of students?

- 1. expanding academics to the outside world
- 2. getting out into the field
- 3. not gaining practical experience
- 4. indulging in co-curricular activities

5. Which of these does NOT provide industry exposure to students of business schools?

- 1. text books
- 2. conferences
- 3. industrial visits
- 4. guest lectures

27. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

In the pre-dawn tranquillity of the Andaman Sea, a seismic tremor struck, momentarily agitating the ocean's placid surface. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, felt the earth beneath them shudder at 5:50 a.m. on Friday. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), a 4.2 magnitude earthquake occurred at a depth of 10km, its epicentre originating from a seismically active region beneath the sea. No casualties or damages have been reported. Earthquakes, like the one experienced in the Andaman Sea, are stark reminders of the Earth's ever-shifting tectonic plates. These seismic events result from the sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust, creating seismic waves that cause the ground to shake. The intensity and impact of an earthquake depends on various factors, including its magnitude, depth, and proximity to populated areas. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in a region where several tectonic plates converge, including the Indian Plate, the Burma Plate, and the Sunda Plate. The interaction of these plates leads to frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity. With its 4.2 magnitude, the recent earthquake is considered moderate, but its occurrence in this seismically active region serves as a reminder of the unpredictable and potentially devastating nature of such events. The NCS, the nodal agency of the Government of India, is responsible for monitoring earthquake activity in the country. Using a network of seismographs, the NCS collects and analyses data from seismic events to provide accurate information to the public and relevant authorities. This data helps scientists understand patterns and trends, leading to a better understanding of earthquake behaviour and potential risks. Earlier this week, Maharashtra's Satara district was also shaken by a 3.3 magnitude earthquake. While these events seem isolated, they form part of a broader pattern of seismic activity

Passage



across the region. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have experienced several significant earthquakes in the past, including a 5.8 magnitude earthquake in 2021. The potential consequences of earthquakes can be devastating, causing loss of life and extensive damage to infrastructure. It is therefore vital to have effective early warning systems and disaster management strategies in place. While the 4.2 magnitude earthquake in the Andaman Sea did not result in any casualties or damages, it underscores the importance of continued investment in earthquake preparedness and resilience measures, particularly in seismically active regions like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the themes of the above passage?

- 1. Loss of life in Andaman and Nicobar
- 2. unannounced tremors and tangible risks
- 3. seismic tremors in Andaman Sea
- 4. tracking seismic activity

2. "it underscores the importance of continued investment in earthquake preparedness' Here 'underscores' means

- 1. emphasises
- 2. mitigates
- 3. undermines
- 4. extenuate

3. When were the tremors felt in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

- 1. before the sunrise
- 2. in the afternoon
- 3. at night
- 4. after the sunset

4. Which of the following is an odd-man out regarding the tectonic plates in Andaman region?

- 1. Burma Plates
- 2. Satara Plates
- 3. Sunda Plates
- 4. India Plates

5. Which of the following is a necessity in Andaman and Nicobar region?

- 1. to make the people aware of the tectonic plates and their impact
- 2. to evacuate people from the islands
- 3. to collect and analyse data from seismic events
- 4. to install early warning systems and have disaster management strategies in place

28. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The regal period (753–509 BC) and the early republic (509–280 BC) are the most poorly documented periods of Roman history because historical accounts of Rome were not written until much later. Greek historians did not take serious notice of Rome until the Pyrrhic War (280–275 BC), when Rome was completing its conquest of Italy and was fighting against the Greek city of Tarentum in southern Italy. Rome's first native historian, a senator named Quintus Fabius Pictor, lived and wrote even later, during the Second Punic War (218–201 BC). Thus historical writing at Rome did not begin until after Rome had completed its conquest of Italy, had emerged as a major power of the ancient world, and was engaged in a titanic struggle with Carthage for control of the western Mediterranean. Fabius Pictor's history, which began with the city's mythical Trojan ancestry and narrated events up to his own day, established the form of subsequent histories of Rome. During the last 200 years BC, 16 other Romans wrote similarly inclusive narratives. All these works are now collectively termed "the Roman annalistic tradition" because many of them attempted to give a year-by-year (or annalistic) account of Roman affairs for the republic. Although none of these histories are fully preserved, the first 10 books of Livy, one of Rome's greatest historians, are extant and cover Roman affairs from earliest times to the year 293 BC (extant are also Books 21 to

Passage



45 treating the events from 218 BC to 167 BC). Since Livy wrote during the reign of the emperor Augustus (27 BC–AD 14), he was separated by 200 years from Fabius Pictor, who, in turn, had lived long after many of the events his history described. Thus, in writing about early Rome, ancient historians were confronted with great difficulties in ascertaining the truth. They possessed a list of annual magistrates from the beginning of the republic onward (the consular fasti), which formed the chronological framework of their accounts. Religious records and the texts of some laws and treaties provided a bare outline of major events. Ancient historians fleshed out this meagre factual material with both native and Greek folklore. Consequently, over time, historical facts about early Rome often suffered from patriotic or face-saving reinterpretations involving exaggeration of the truth, suppression of embarrassing facts, and invention.

1. What did the early Roman historians use to fill up details in the historical accounts of events?

- 1. Roman and Greek folklore
2. texts of laws and treaties
3. religious records
4. list of annual magistrates

2. The passage is mainly about

- 1. the ancient documentation of Roman history
2. the ancient Roman and Greek histories
3. Rome's first native historian
4. the use of myths and folklore in ancient Roman history

3. 'extant are also Books 21 to 45' here the word 'extant' means

- 1. partially lost
2. lost forever
3. still existing
4. enlarged

4. After reading the passage, it can be inferred that it is an extract from

- 1. a news report
2. an encyclopaedic entry on ancient Rome
3. a report on Roman conquests
4. a book on archaeology

5. Which period in ancient Roan history is most poorly documented?

- 1. 27 BC- AD 14
2. 218 BC to 167 BC
3. 218–201 BC
4. 509–280 BC

29. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

A fact that draws our attention is that, according to his position in life, an extravagant man is either admired or loathed. A successful business man does nothing to increase his popularity by being prudent with his money. A person who is wealthy is expected to lead a luxurious life and to be lavish with his hospitality. If he is not so, he is considered mean, and his reputation in business may even suffer in consequence. The paradox remains that he had not been careful with his money in the first place; he would never have achieved his present wealth. Among the low income group, a different set of values exists. The young clerk, who makes his wife a present of a new dress when he has not paid his house rent, is condemned as extravagant. Carefulness with money to the point of meanness is applauded as a virtue. Nothing in his life is considered more worthy than paying his bills. The ideal wife for such a man separates her housekeeping money into joyless little piles – so much for rent, for food, for the children's shoes, she is able to face the milkman with equanimity every month, satisfied with her economizing ways, and never knows the guilt of buying something she can't really afford. As for myself, I fall neither of these

Passage



categories. If I have money to spare I can be extravagant, but when, as is usually the case, I am hard up and then I am the meanest man imaginable.

1. Select the antonym of 'loathed' as used in the passage.

1. cursed 2. shunned 3. adored 4. despised

2. Which of these is NOT true?

1. People who lead a luxurious life are expected to entertain lavishly.
2. A low-income person is considered worthy if he pays bills on time.
3. The author is at liberty to be extravagant at all times.
4. The rich amass wealth by spending money economically.

3. The word 'equanimity' in the passage means

1. tranquillity 2. frustration 3. anxiety 4. agitation

4. If a successful businessman is judicious with his money

1. his business flourishes
2. his reputation suffers
3. his popularity rises
4. his prestige improves

5. Which of these can be inferred from the passage?

1. Extravagance is applauded in some and condemned in others.
2. Wealthy people are stingy as far as philanthropy is concerned.
3. For the wealthy, prudence with money is considered a virtue.
4. People who have a meagre income are expected to be spendthrifts

30. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The four-year tiger census report, Status of Tigers in India, 2018, released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows numbers of the cat have increased across all landscapes. The Global Tiger Forum, an international collaboration of tiger-bearing countries, has set a goal of doubling the count of wild tigers by 2022. More than 80% of the world's wild tigers are in India, and it's crucial to keep track of their numbers. The total count in 2018 has risen to 2,967 from 2,226 in 2014 — an increase of 741 individuals an increase of 33%, in four years. This is by far the biggest increase in terms of both numbers and percentage since the fouryearly census using camera traps and the capture-mark-recapture method began in 2006. The 2018 figure has a great degree of credibility because, according to the report, as many as 2,461 individual tigers (83% of the total) have actually been photographed by trap cameras. In 2014, only 1,540 individuals (69%) were photographed. The tiger census is needed because the tiger sits at the peak of the food chain, and its conservation is important to ensure the well-being of the forest ecosystem. The tiger estimation exercise includes habitat assessment and prey estimation. The numbers reflect the success or failure of conservation efforts. This is an especially important indicator in a fast-growing economy like India where the pressures of development often run counter to the demands of conservation. Where has the tiger population increased the most? The biggest increase has been in Madhya Pradesh — a massive 218 individuals (71%) from 308 in 2014 to 526. However, since tigers keep moving between states, conservationists prefer to talk about tiger numbers in terms of landscapes. So, why have the numbers gone up? The success owes a lot to increased vigilance and conservation efforts by the Forest Department. From 28 in 2006, the number of tiger reserves went up to 50 in 2018, extending protection to larger numbers of tigers over

Passage



the years. Healthy increases in core area populations eventually lead to migrations to areas outside the core; this is why the 2018 census has found tigers in newer areas. Over the years, there has been increased focus on tigers even in the areas under the territorial and commercial forestry arms of Forest Departments. The other important reason is increased vigilance, and the fact that organized poaching rackets have been all but crushed. According to Nitin Desai of Wildlife Protection Society of India, there has been no organized poaching by traditional gangs in Central Indian landscapes since 2013. The increased protection has encouraged the tiger to breed. Tigers are fast breeders when conditions are conducive. The rehabilitation of villages outside core areas in many parts of the country has led to the availability of more inviolate space for tigers. Also, because estimation exercises have become increasingly more accurate over the years, it is possible that many tigers that eluded enumerators in earlier exercises were counted this time1.

1. The Global Tiger Forum comprises

- 1. countries which have tigers.
2. National Geographic and World Wildlife Fund.
3. all countries of the United Nations.
4. America and the European Union.

2. The biggest increase in tiger population has been between the years

- 1. 2014-2018
2. 2002-2006
3. 2006-2010
4. 2010-2014

3. The year 2022 marks the target date for -

- 1. tripling the world tiger population.
2. tripling India's tiger population.
3. doubling the count of world tiger population.

4. doubling the count of India's tiger population.

4. 2018 census on the big cat has been the most reliable because

- 1. it photographed 1540 tigers.
2. it photographed 83% of the tigers.
3. it photographed all living tigers of India.
4. it only uses the capture-mark-recapture method

5. The survival of the tiger is vital today because

- 1. it is no longer a threat to the villagers' safety.
2. it is central to the food chain and the eco system.
3. it promotes tourism in India and increases revenue.
4. it is now on the verge of extinction.

6. Researchers refer to places where tigers are found not by states but by the term-

- 1. green belts
2. deep forests
3. landscapes
4. ecosystems

7. What is the tiger population of Madhya Pradesh?

- 1. 28
2. 741
3. 50
4. 526

8. Which of the following statements is not true as per the passage?

- 1. There are more reliable ways of data collection
2. Forest departments have become more watchful
3. The tiger reserves have increased to 100 in 2018
4. Poaching gangs have been reduced drastically

9. What has been the impact of providing inviolate spaces for tigers?

- 1. The poachers have been caught in these spaces very easily.

Passage



- 2. The number of villagers killed by man eater tigers has increased.
- 3. Tiger numbers have increased due to safe breeding places.
- 4. Tigers have moved from Uttar Pradesh to Madhya Pradesh.

10. Pick out a word that is similar in meaning to:

CONDUCIVE

- 1. reclusive
- 2. helpful
- 3. unfavorable
- 4. hindering

31. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

A few years ago it seemed as if the moment for stand-up comedy had arrived. By the end of 2017, stand-up comedy were on the cover of a magazine, signaling the coming of age of the industry.

The stand-up game attracted investors in the right places: on platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, apart from increasing open mic schedules in venues across cities. Two major companies Comedy Store and Canvas Laugh Club arrived on the scene and were game changers. But despite a heady start, the comic landscape has changed drastically today with stand-up comedy feeling the brunt of faltering payments and cancelled shows. Despite a good start, the Indian stand-up industry is still unorganized and uncertain for comics.

If you ask viral comic Kunal Kamra about the scene, he says that the audience isn't really 'invested' in the art form at the moment and that only ten or twenty tickets would sell if comics weren't on the internet promoting themselves. And this is despite the surge in open mics and more stand-ups coming in.

Last year, new-age Indian comedy's reputation came under strain when allegations under the #MeToo movement exposed a darker side of the circuit. Since

then, the big three comedy groups: All India Bakchod, SNG Comedy and East India Comedy, have either disbanded or had founding members quit.

Jeeya Sethi, a leading comedy an says, "It's a good thing that these -collectives have died because they mostly had men with no women being showcased." Sethi adds saying that it isn't as easy as it sounds. "In a fledgling industry, a viral YouTube video isn't a sign that you've made it". Craft takes time. Every comic who does two open mics calls himself a comedy an. In my opinion, you have to do comedy for more than 20 years to be a comic. It takes at least five years to find your voice."

1. By saying 'the audience has not invested in the stand-up comedy art form' the author means that

- 1. the audience prefers to watch only women comedy .
- 2. it is a new art form and it will take time to build an audience.
- 3. the audience don't wish to develop a sense of humour.
- 4. there are faltering payments and cancelled shows.

2. The stand-up comedy show had a wonderful start because-

- 1. Open mic shows were held in venues across cities.
- 2. Leading companies came forward to support artists
- 3. Payments to artists were prompt and good.
- 4. Some Bollywood directors offered them roles.
- 5. Comedy were given good media coverage.

- 1. 3, 4 & 5
- 2. 1, 2 & 5
- 3. 2, 4 & 5
- 4. 2, 3 & 4

Passage



3. Select the word which means the same as 'fledgling' in the given context -

- 1. a nervous person who frets a lot.
- 2. a fairly new company or industry.
- 3. a mature person who performs well.
- 4. a successful and established venture.

4. How has the situation been reversed from the early success of stand-up comedy?

- 1. SNG Comedy and East India Comedy support the comedy .
- 2. Comedy are being offered double the price asked by them.
- 3. Comedy Store and Canvas Laugh Club are offering bigger platforms to comedy .
- 4. Comedy groups are packing up and founders are resigning.

5. Sethi believes that

- 1. The road to success is only through YouTube.
- 2. A viral YouTube video is a sign of success.
- 3. Comedy is an art form and takes hard work and patience.
- 4. The true comic artist takes years to find one's voice.

- 1. 1 & 3 2. 2 & 4
- 3. 1 & 2 4. 3 & 4

32. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

According to a new American study headed by Dr. Willis, it has been found that people who exercise in the morning seem to lose more weight than people completing the same workouts later in the day.

These findings help shed light on the vexing issue of why some people shed considerable weight with exercise and others almost none. The study adds to

the growing body of science suggesting that the timing of various activities, including exercise, could affect how those activities affect us.

The relationship between exercise and body weight is somewhat befuddling. Multiple past studies show that a majority of people who take up exercise to lose weight drop fewer pounds than would be expected, given how many calories they are burning during their workouts.

Some gain weight. But a few respond quite well, shedding pound after pound with the same exercise regimen that prompts others to add inches.

The Midwest Trial 2, was conducted in the University of Kas, U.S. on how regular, supervised exercise influences body weight.

The trial involved 100 overweight, previously inactive young men and women who were made to work out five times a week at a physiology lab, jogging or otherwise sweating until they had burned up to 600 calories per session.

After 10 months of this regimen, almost everyone had dropped pounds. But the extent of their losses fluctuated wildly, even though everyone was doing the same, supervised workout. A team of researchers started brainstorming what could be responsible for the enormous variability in the weight loss.

They hit upon activity timing. They decided to do a Follow-up study of the Mid West Trial2. In this new study, the Mid West Trial 2 Follow up study the researchers now studied a team of participants who could visit the gym whenever they wished between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. They also tracked everyone's calorie intakes and daily movement habits throughout the 10 months.

They knew, too, whether and by how much people's weights had changed. Now, they checked weight change against exercise schedules and quickly noticed a consistent pattern.

Passage



Those people who usually worked out before noon had lost more weight, on average, than the men and women who typically exercised after 3 p.m.

The researchers uncovered a few other, possibly relevant differences between the morning and late-day exercisers. The early-exercise group tended to be slightly more active throughout the day, taking more steps in total than those who worked out later. They also ate less.

These factors may cumulatively have contributed to the striking differences in how many pounds people lost, Dr. Willis says.

Thus it seems that people who worked out before noon lost more weight, on average, than those who typically exercised after 3 p.m.

But Dr. Willis also points out that most of those who worked out later in the day did lose weight, even if not as much as the larkish exercisers, and almost certainly became healthier. "I would not want anyone to think that it's not worth exercising if you can't do it first thing in the morning," he says. "Any exercise, at any time of day, is going to be better than none."

1. The Mid West Trail 2 was a

- 1. A European study on 100 participants who exercised 7 times a week and burnt 800 calories.
- 2. Canadian study on 500 participants who exercised 6 times a week and burnt 600 calories.
- 3. U.S based study on 100 participants who exercised 5 times a week and burnt 600 calories
- 4. U.S based study on 100 participants who exercised 3 times a week and burnt 300 calories.

2. The Mid West Trial 2 duration was –

- 1. 12 months
- 2. 6 months
- 3. 18 months
- 4. 10 months

3. Select the option that is not true as per the passage

Several studies show that as a result of the workout

- 1. the majority lost a little weight.
- 2. a few had the desired weight loss.
- 3. some gained some weight.
- 4. most gained a lot of weight.

4. Follow-up study that was taken up later?

- 1. The duration of the follow up study was longer.
- 2. The calorie intake and the time of exercise were examined.
- 3. Participants of the study stayed in the premises.
- 4. Face to face interviews were conducted.

5. The finding of the Mid West Trial 2 Follow-up study was that the best time for exercise was

- 1. noon to 3 p.m.
- 2. between 3-7 p.m.
- 3. before noon.
- 4. 7 p.m. onwards.

6. Select the option which is not true.

The successful weight losers in the Mid West Trial 2 Follow-up study _____

- 1. remained active.
- 2. slept more.
- 3. walked more.
- 4. ate less.

7. By 'larkish exercisers' the writer refers to people who

- 1. love to see the lark in the morning.
- 2. like to exercise late with the larks.
- 3. like to sing in the morning.
- 4. exercise in the morning.

Passage



8. Find one word which means the same as the following.

a set of rules about food and diet that someone follows

- 1. catalogue 2. regiment
- 3. regimen 4. fundamental

9. Find one word in the passage which means the same as 'confusing'.

- 1. brainstorming 2. vexing
- 3. befuddling 4. striking

10. What would Dr. Willis say to someone who has given up exercising because they cannot do so in the morning?

- 1. Exercise is good only in the morning.
- 2. Exercise only with a trainer.
- 3. Any exercise is better than none.
- 4. Evening is the worst time to exercise.

33. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The United Kingdom's Social Mobility Commission study reports that disadvantaged children in England are being priced out of a cultural hinterland. Children aged 10-15 from low-income families are three times less likely than wealthier peers to engage in out-of-school musical activities, such as learning an instrument etc.

There were also differences according to race – 4% of British Pakistani children took part in music classes, compared with 28% of Indian children and 20% of white children – and regional divides: 9% of children in north-east England played a musical instrument, compared with 22% in the south-east.

Disadvantaged children are also more likely to miss out on extracurricular sports (football, boxing,

cricket) and drama, dance and art. The commission set out recommendations, including bursaries, better funding and support for schools – let's hope they're taken on board. As well as the activities themselves, children are missing out on other crucial gains including confidence-building, team spirit and social skill, and are less likely to go on to higher education.

Extracurricular activities tend to cost money, but there are also problems with a lack of availability and access, such as schools being unable to afford to run after-school clubs or stay open during holidays. Another barrier is the kids' "fear of not fitting in". In this sense, certain children are self-excluding from, say, learning an instrument, singing in a choir, playing cricket or acting. They decide by themselves that they're "undeserving" of music, sport, art and drama. Unbelievably, in 2019, children as young as 10 are already hard-wired with the self-limiting poverty notion of "not for the likes of us".

This is heartbreaking. It's hardly news that life is tougher for poorer children, but it's an outrage if all sense of curiosity, artistry and playfulness is knocked out of them so early. Something is wrong if better-off children feel entitled to explore and participate in areas that interest and excite them, while the disadvantaged are cast from the start as cultural wallflowers – doomed to sit out every dance.

This isn't about every child learning the piano or violin (but why not?), it's about sowing the seeds for a cultural hinterland that will sustain and enrich them for life. It's about people exploring their passions and refusing to have their horizons artificially limited. Regardless of circumstances, all children should know that their faces "fit" – automatically and forever. Culture belongs to everyone.

Passage



1. The probability of a child in United Kingdom getting opportunities to engage in cultural and sports activities depends on

1. parental economic background
2. whether one parent is British
3. whether parents have a university education
4. kind of school and funding available

Of the above points which are correct

1. 1 & 4
2. 2 & 4
3. 1 & 2
4. 3 & 4

2. According to the passage which of the following is not the correct reason Exposure to cultural activities and sports at a young age is very important for children because it

1. brings about differences among children.
2. leads children to explore their talents.
3. builds team spirit and social skills.
4. helps in confidence building.

3. Pick out a phrase or a word which me the same as a group of people considered to be superior to others because of their social standing or wealth

1. disadvantaged
2. cultural wallflowers
3. hard-wired
4. elitist

4. How will a wholesome education including arts and sports not benefit the disadvantaged?

1. Children will get exposure to arts and sports.
2. Children will no longer have the fear of not fitting in.
3. Children will have feelings of low self-esteem and self-exclusion.
4. Children will explore play and learning outside of class.

5. According to the author, what is truly heart-breaking and damaging for the kids is that -

1. parents don't have money to pay for any additional classes for their children.
2. teachers are told not to offer these opportunities as they are not tested.
3. schools wish to offer activities but don't have funds.
4. children themselves feel that the activities are not fit for the likes of them.

34. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

Nothing, not even the angry, red eruptions on her face and body, will stop Sneha from aiming for her "dream job". "I love the Indian Army," says the 18-year-old, as she sits by herself under one of the canopies at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium of the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi, Karnataka. Outside the enclosure, around 35 women run on the 400-m track.

A day earlier, Sneha had cleared her ground tests — a 1.6-km race that had to be completed in eight minutes or less, high jump and long jump — and physical fitness tests, when she was diagnosed with chickenpox. Now on medication for the pox, she is back at the stadium for a medical examination as part of the recruitment process. As she waits for her turn, isolated from the other women, Sneha, says, "I had no fever when I left home in Kerala. Even when I reached Belagavi and got these pimples, I did not think much of it. So I came for my physical and ground tests."

Accompanied by her mother and uncle, Sneha, who is pursuing a computer course in her hometown Iritty, about 41 km from Kannur, made the 611-km journey from home to Belagavi spending eight hours in a bus and three hours on a train. She is among the

Passage



850-odd women, many of whom have travelled several hundred kilometers, to turn up at the first-ever recruitment rally for women to the Indian Army's Corps of Military Police.

The recruitment of women as Soldier General Duty (Women Military Police) marks the first time that women will be taken in not only as officers, but as soldiers, giving them an opportunity to be involved in active military duties. As personnel of the military police, the women soldiers will be responsible for investigating offences such as molestation, theft, and rape; "assisting in the maintenance of good order and discipline"; and in custody and handling of prisoners of war — essentially combat-support operations.

The move is part of a slow opening up of avenues for women in the armed forces. In his Independence Day speech last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said women officers recruited into the armed forces under the Short Service Commission would be given the option of taking up permanent commission — a "gift" to India's "brave daughters".

Following a notification issued by the Army on April 25, around 15,000 women registered for the recruitment rally at Belagavi, the first of five such to be held across India to fill 100 positions in the Military Police. The Belagavi centre catered to candidates from the southern states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar and Puducherry. Of the 15,000 aspirants, about 3,000 were short-listed on the basis of their Class 10 marks, with the cut-off set at 86 per cent. Of the shortlisted candidates, only about one-third turned up at the Belagavi centre between August 1 and 5 at the date and time assigned to them. Just then, outside the enclosure where Sneha is sitting, a shrill whistle pierces the air and another batch of girls takes off — feet on the wet ground, mostly bare, making a dash for their place in history.

"Does everybody understand English?" asks Major Chaudhry and the group of 30 women, sitting on red carpets on the ground, bellows: "Yes".

1. What is the occasion being talked about in the passage?

1. Recruitment of women in the Indian Army
2. Medical examination of the women soldiers of the Indian Army
3. Sports event for the women working in the Indian Army
4. An assembly of the women personnel of the Indian Army

2. Which city does Sneha come from?

1. Kannur, Kerala
2. Kozhikode, Kerala
3. Iritty, Kerala
4. Belagavi, Karnataka

3. Why are there eruptions on Sneha's face?

1. She is tired and hot after the run of 400 meters.
2. She has pimples on her face.
3. She has got the chicken pox.
4. She is angry over the long wait.

4. How many women are participating at the recruitment rally at Belagavi?

1. 100
2. 850
3. 3000
4. 15000

5. What gift was announced by the PM in his Independence Day speech last year for the brave daughters of the country?

1. Women will be recruited in armed forces.
2. Women will be recruited as soldiers in the Military police.
3. Women officers will be able to opt for permanent commission in the armed forces.
4. Women will have an opportunity to be involved in active military duties.

Passage



6. In what way is 'history' being made in Belagavi?

1. Women have travelled from far-off places to turn up at the recruitment rally.
2. This rally marks the first time that women will be taken in as soldiers.
3. Belagavi rally is the first of the five to be held across India.
4. The rally is a result of the PM's Independence Day speech last year.

7. Which of the following duties will be borne by women soldiers?

1. Investigating offences involving molestation, theft and rape.
2. Assisting in maintaining order and discipline.
3. Administrative jobs
4. Handling prisoners of war in custody.

1. 1, 2 and 3 2. 2, 3 and 4

3. 1, 2 and 4

4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. Which of the following is NOT necessary to qualify for the recruitment in the armed forces?

1. long jump and high jump
2. 1.6 meter race to be completed within 8 minutes
3. to speak English
4. physical fitness tests

9. Which of the following states were not covered by the Belagavi center?

1. Karnataka and Kerala
2. UTs of Puducherry, Lakshadweep and AN Islands
3. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
4. Maharashtra and Goa

10. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

1. About one third of the shortlisted candidates turned up at the Belagavi center.
2. Women were called on the basis of their class 10 marks
3. There are only 100 positions to be filled up.
4. 3000 women registered for the recruitment rally at Belagavi.

35. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

At a number of places in the Kashmir Valley, security forces have put coils of razor wire on roads to enforce restrictions on movement. Concertina wire or razor wire fences are used along territorial borders and in areas of conflict around the world, to keep out combatants, terrorists, or refugees. The expandable spools of barbed or razor wire get their name from concertina, a hand-held musical instrument similar to the accordion, with bellows that expand and contract.

Concertina wire coils were an improvisation on the barbed wire obstacles used during World War I. The flat, collapsible coils with intermittent barbs or blades were designed to be carried along by infantry, and deployed on battlefields to prevent or slow down enemy movement.

The Englishman Richard Newton is credited with creating the first barbed wire around 1845; the first patent for "a double wire clipped with diamond shaped barbs" was given to Louis

François Janin of France. In the United States, the first patent was registered by Lucien B Smith on June 25, 1867, for a prairie fence made of fireproof iron wire. Michael Kelly twisted razor wires together to form a cable of wires.

Passage



The American businessman Joseph F Glidden is considered to be the father of the modern barbed wire. He designed the wire with two intertwined strands held by sharp prongs at regular intervals.

Barbed wire was initially an agrarian fencing invention intended to confine cattle and sheep, which unlike lumber, was largely resistant to fire and bad weather. An advertorial published in the US in 1885 under the title 'Why Barb Fencing Is Better Than Any Other', argued that "it does not decay; boys cannot crawl through or over it; nor dogs; nor cats; nor any other animal; it watches with Argus eyes the inside and outside, up, down and lengthwise; it prevents the 'ins' from being 'outs', and the 'outs' from being 'ins', watches at day-break, at noontide, at sunset and all night long..."

Barbed wire was put to military use in the Siege of Santiago in 1898 during the Spanish American War, and by the British in the Second Boer War of 1899-1902 to confine the families of the Afrika-speaking Boer fighters.

World War I saw extensive use of barbed wire — and German military engineers are credited with improvising the earliest concertina coils on the battlefield. They spun the barbed wire into circles and simply spread it on the battlefield. Without using any support infrastructure like poles etc. this was more effective against the infantry charge by Allied soldiers.

The fence erected by India along the Line of Control to keep out terrorist infiltrators consists of rows of concertina wire coils held by iron angles. They are now commonly seen and are used to secure private properties as well.

1. What is the main theme of the above passage?

- 1. How barbed wire was patented
2. The use of barbed wire in Jammu and Kashmir

- 3. The use of barbed wire in agriculture
4. The evolution and use of barbed wire

2. Who is credited with creating the modern barbed wire?

- 1. Louise Francoise Janin 2. Joseph F Glidden
3. Lucien B Smith 4. Richard Newton

3. What was the initial purpose of inventing the barbed wire?

- 1. to secure the borders of a country
2. to keep the dogs and boys out of gardens
3. to restrict the movement of trouble makers
4. to confine cattle and sheep within an area

4. Who first spread the barbed wires on the field without using the poles or any other support system?

- 1. German military engineers 2. British army
3. American military 4. Allied soldiers

5. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. The fence along the Indian Line of Control consists of rows of concertina wire coils held by iron angles.
2. In the United States, the first patent was registered by Louis Francois Janin.
3. It was Richard Newton, an Englishman, who invented the barbed wire around 1845.
4. Barbed wire was first put to military use in the Siege of Santiago in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Passage



36. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

LAST WEEK, scientists from all corners of India descended on Ahmedabad to remember the architect of India's space Program, a man whom the late president, APJ Abdul Kalam, had famously termed "Mahatma Gandhi of Indian Science". They were there to launch celebrations on the birth centenary of Vikram Sarabhai, 47 years after his death at the age of 52, by when he had founded 38 institutions that are now leaders in space research, physics, management and performing arts.

Former director of the Space Applications Centre Pramod Kale was a 19-year old science graduate from MS University of Baroda, besotted by space technology, when he first met Sarabhai. "In May 1960, I went to Ahmedabad to meet Dr. Sarabhai. "I met him and ended up talking for two hours," Kale says.

By June that year, Kale had done exactly as Sarabhai had advised him and taken up a master's course at Gujarat University. In 1962, when Sarabhai was looking at studying the magnetic equator, Kale went on to be among the first few to go to NASA to learn radar tracking.

The room resounded with many such memories. Former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan remembered how they ran into some trouble at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), founded in 1947 by Sarabhai, in their attempts to fly a balloon at 4 am, when in sailed Sarabhai. "He told us had the flight been successful, you would not have learnt even half of what you learnt because of that initial problem," said Kasturirangan.

Many of those who had collected in Ahmedabad in Sarabhai's memory were teenagers when they first met him. Gandhinagar-based entrepreneur K Subramanian was 19 and a student of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, working on a

summer project at PRL, when a man in a kurta-pyjama walked in and began turning all the wastepaper bins upside down, inspecting their contents and putting them back again. "I asked a colleague who that was and was told it is Dr Vikram Sarabhai. He had come to check how much waste the lab was generating," laughs Subramanian.

Born to Ambalal and Sarla Devi, Ahmedabad's leading textile-mill owners, Vikram Sarabhai showed creative promise early. He was 15 when he built a working model of a train engine with the help of two engineers, which is now housed at the Community Science Centre (CSC) in Ahmedabad. The CSC was Vikram's way of providing other children the privileges he had, of experimental research, says his son Kartikeya, 71, adding how his father wished to work with children at the science centre after he retired.

"He was essentially a researcher, and believed that people, especially children, should be allowed to think freely and come up with solutions on their own," recalls Kartikeya, who founded the Centre for Environment Education in 1984. Kartikeya is carefully piecing together all the dog-eared notes he is discovering in the recesses of their three grand homes — Shanti Sadan, The Retreat and Chidambaram. To inspire the young to dream like Sarabhai, Kartikeya is building a permanent exhibition gallery on the Sabarmati Riverfront, expected to open this November.

1. What was the occasion for the gathering at Ahmedabad?

1. Foundation Day of Community Science Centre
2. Launch of the celebrations of the Birth Centenary of Vikram Sarabhai
3. Foundation Day of ISRO
4. Birth Anniversary of India's Space Program

Passage



2. What is Vikram Sarabhai mainly known for?

1. for being an entrepreneur in Ahmedabad
2. for pioneering India's space Program
3. for founding 38 different institutions
4. for establishing Community Science Centre

3. Among the people who had gathered at Ahmedabad, who was the former chairman of ISRO?

1. Kartikeya
2. K Subramanian
3. K Kasturirangan
4. Pramod Kale

4. Which statement shows that Vikram Sarabhai had a creative mind at an early age?

1. He built a working model of a train engine at the age of 15.
2. He founded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL).
3. He told the scientists that they learnt much more from problems than from success.
4. He checked how much waste the lab was generating.

5. How did Vikram Sarabhai provide under-privileged children the experience of experimental research?

1. By initiating space research at PRL
2. By founding Community Science Centre at Ahmedabad.
3. By founding Physical Research Laboratory
4. By providing them with scholarships in science

6. APJ Abdul Kalam called Vikram Sarabhai "Mahatma Gandhi of Indian Science". What does 'Mahatma Gandhi' mean here?

1. Father
2. Social reformer

3. Revolutionary
4. Architect

7. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

1. The Sarabhai family owns three grand homes in Mumbai.
2. Vikram Sarabhai's son, Kartikeya, is now 71 years old.
3. The names of Vikram Sarabhai's parents were Ambalal and Sarla Devi.
4. Vikram Sarabhai's father was a textile mill owner.

8. 'He was a 19-year old science graduate besotted by space technology, when he first met Sarabhai.' 'besotted' here me

1. frantic
2. wasted
3. obsessed
4. greedy

9. Who among the following went to NASA to study radar tracking?

1. Pramod Kale
2. K Subramanian
3. K Kasturirangan
4. Kartikeya

10. Where did K Subramanian come from to work at PRL?

1. Bangalore
2. Baroda
3. Ahmedabad
4. Tiruchirappalli

37. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

A great water scarcity looms over India; by 2025 India will get just over half the water they get today. This grave problem has a simple solution. Catch the rain as it falls, and the water crisis will disappear. However, about 80 per cent of India's rainfall buckets down during the three months of the monsoons. As yet, no government Programr has discovered how to store this water.

Passage



'Dying Wisdom', a seven-year countryside study by Delhi's Centre for Science and Environment, reveals that ruins of amazing ancient technologies survive in every corner of India. Drip-irrigation systems of bamboo pipes in Meghalaya; 'kunds', underground tanks in Rajasthan; 'pynes', water channels built by tribals in Bihar; and thousands of open-water bodies down south are all superb examples of rain water harvesting systems. Even today, tanks called 'eris' in Tamil Nadu water one-third of the state's irrigated area. Unfortunately, governmental planners mostly refuse to acknowledge the potential of these low-cost systems, concentrating on costly dams and canals.

Few cities have lost touch with their ecological traditions as fast—and with as damaging results—as Bangalore. Only 17 of its water bodies struggle to survive in a city where once 200 lakes, ponds and wetlands cooled the city and recharged its ground water. The threats continue unabated as the relentless march of urbanization shows no sign of stopping.

1. 'This grave problem' in the passage refers to

- 1. short monsoon span
2. rainfall
3. storage of water
4. water crisis

2. What, according to the passage, is the primary reason for the water shortage?

- 1. Lack of means to store rainwater
2. Government's ignorance of the situation
3. Less rainfall in the country
4. Carelessness of people in using water

3. Which State uses bamboo pipes for the drip irrigation system?

- 1. Bihar
2. Rajasthan
3. Meghalaya
4. Tamil Nadu

4. Which of the following is not a low cost technology in water usage?

- 1. water channels
2. drip-irrigation
3. underground tanks
4. dams and canals

5. The people in ancient India had amazing technology to harvest water. This shows that

- 1. they understood the significance of water.
2. it used to rain heavily.
3. they did not know how to build dams.
4. water was scarce at that time.

38. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

Dust storms of May 2018, in Northern India, contributed to the deteriorating air quality in the region and the capital city of Delhi, with implications for human health, a study found. The high death toll from the severe dust storms that lashed the region was mainly attributed to the intense winds, which surprised even scientists and meteorologists. But apart from the immediate damage to life and property, drastic changes in air quality from the dust engulfing the region affected far more people with potential implications for human health, stated a team of researchers who analysed the impact of the spell of dust storms that struck the region that month. They reported increases in particulate matter, mainly in Delhi and urged for an early warning system.

Dust storms commonly occur in the Indo-Gangetic Plains – the fertile plains in northern India that stretch all the way to the East – from March to May, the pre-monsoon season. Westerly winds typically bring loose sand and soil particles, picked up from

Passage



the Arabian Peninsula or the Thar Desert in North Western India, to the Indo-Gangetic Plains. The dust tends to worsen air quality over the Indo-Gangetic Plains, home to around 900 million people, which can have far-reaching effects on human health.

While dust storms are a regular feature in the region, the May 2018 dust storms specifically had a death toll of about 100 people, with around 200 people injured.

“We are concerned that the dust impacts the health of people who get exposed,” said a senior professor. However, he also observed that scattered rains occurring soon after the dust storms tend to clean up the dust, improving air quality. During October-November, densely populated cities like Delhi and Kanpur in the Indo-Gangetic Plains are vulnerable to windborne long-range air pollution from crop residue burning in the North, and now this study “shows the effect of dust storms during the March-May time frame,” Sarkar pointed out. “This really puts the Indo-Gangetic valley in a unique spot in terms of it being targeted by these different hazardous conditions which are mostly outsourced from other areas.”

1. Dust storms in Delhi are a cause of concern as they

- 1. cause strong winds. 2. affect Delhi alone. 3. challenge scientists. 4. are a health hazard.

2. Dust storms are caused by

- 1. winds from the North. 2. winds from the South. 3. Westerly winds. 4. Easterly winds.

3. The notable fact about pollution in Oct to Nov is that _____

- 1. Westerly winds bring loose sand and soil particles 2. dust storms are a regular feature. 3. it is caused by crop burning in North India.

4. it is caused by the winds from Thar Desert.

4. By saying, ‘This really puts the Indo-Gangetic valley in a unique spot’ the writer refers to the fact that

- 1. the Indo-Gangetic valley receives its pollution from other areas or factors. 2. the valley is affected by pollution caused by hazardous industries. 3. intense winds in the valley surprise even scientists and meteorologists. 4. studies find that only the valley faces pollution all year round.

5. Choose the correct sequence in which events take place -

- 1. Strong winds- poor air quality -dust storms- - death and disease 2. Dust storms- poor air quality- strong winds -death and disease 3. Dust storms - death and disease-strong winds-poor air quality 4. Strong winds- dust storms- poor air quality- death and disease

39. Read the following passage and were the questions that follow

Parents all over Iceland’s capital Reykjavik embark on a two-hour evening walk around their neighbourhood every weekend, checking on youth hangouts as a 10 pm curfew approaches. The walk in Reykjavik is one step toward Iceland’s success into turning around a crisis in teenage drinking.

Focusing on local participation and promoting more music and sports options for students, the island nation in the North Atlantic has dried up a teenage culture of drinking and smoking. Icelandic teenagers

Passage



now have one of the lowest rates of substance abuse in Europe.

The Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis, the institute pioneering the project for the past two decades, says it currently advises 100 communities in 23 countries, from Finland to Chile, on cutting teenage substance abuse. "The key to success is to create healthy communities and by that get healthy individuals," said Inga Dora Sigfusdottir, a sociology professor who founded the Youth of Iceland Program, which now has rebranded as Planet Youth.

The secret, she says, is to keep young people busy and parents engaged without talking much about drugs or alcohol. That stands in sharp contrast to other anti-abuse Programs, which try to sway teenagers with school lectures and scary, disgusting ads showing smokers' rotten lungs or eggs in a frying pan to represent an intoxicated brain.

"Telling teenagers not to use drugs can backlash and actually get them curious to try them," Ms Sigfusdottir said. In 1999, when thousands of teenagers would gather in Reykjavik every weekend, surveys showed 56% of Icelandic 16-year-olds drank alcohol and about as many had tried smoking.

Years later, Iceland has the lowest rates for drinking and smoking among the 35 countries measured in the 2015 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs. On average, 80% of European 16-year-olds have tasted alcohol at least once, compared with 35% in Iceland, the only country where more than half of those students completely abstains from alcohol

1. Parents in Reykjavik take an evening walk at night in order to

1. remain fit and healthy by avoiding drinking at night
2. keep a watch on teenagers to ensure they don't get into the habit of drinking

3. meet other parents to know and discuss how to control teenagers

4. enjoy the evening stroll with other parents after dinner

2. What is dramatic about the figures of teenage drinking in Iceland?

1. They've remained the same over the years
2. They've become the lowest in Europe
3. They've gone up by 36%
4. They've shot down by 96%

3. The Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis does the work of

1. showing teenagers anti-abuse Programs, which stop teenagers from drinking.
2. advising many countries on controlling use of drugs etc. by young adults
3. legally allowing children 12 years and more to remain outside their homes after 6 pm.
4. going around at night with patrolling groups in many European countries.

4. Teenage drinking in many countries like Denmark, Greece, Hungary, etc has been reported as

1. completely eradicated.
2. the lowest in the world.
3. low compared to Iceland.
4. the highest in the world.

5. Cutting teenage substance abuse" refers to

1. teenagers consuming hazardous substances such as alcohol and drugs.
2. parents shaming their young children for their bad habits.

Passage



3. reducing consumption of drugs and alcohol among young adults.

4. teenagers who consume alcohol abusing their parents.

6. The Program Planet Youth was started by

1. The Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis

2. the local municipality of Reykjavik

3. Inga Dora Sigfusdottir

4. Dagur B. Eggertsson

7. Which of the following does not contribute to the success of Planet Youth Program?

1. Enacting laws against late night movement of teenagers

2. Arranging street gatherings of teenagers

3. Arranging opportunities for music, sports etc.

4. Ensuring parental control and influence

8. From the passage one can conclude that

1. bad habits can be checked by engaging teens in alternative activities.

2. by showing smokers' diseased lungs to teens, parents can influence them.

3. parents must pay for sports and other activities for their children.

4. strict punishment is needed as it acts as a deterrent.

9. The word from the passage that means 'change the image of an organisation or program' is

1. abstain 2. rebrand

3. invest 4. embark

10. 'Over Iceland's harsh winter, one parent admits, evenings sometimes pass without running into any students.' This means -

1. parents are not motivated to get involved in the Program.

2. students are not bothered about the efforts made for them.

3. the Program is having the right impact on teenagers.

4. authorities are disappointed that the Program has failed.

40. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,848 metres, draws adventurers from all over. But the mountain on the Nepal-China border is fast becoming a dangerous place to visit even for the hardened mountaineer. The inherent risks were highlighted with a photograph by Nirmal Purja, a Gorkha ex-soldier. The image, which went viral and altered the manner in which people worldwide imagine what it is to scale Mt. Everest, showed a long queue awaiting a final tilt at the summit, with all the dangers such a wait holds. In the 2019 season, at least 11 climbers have died or gone missing, including four Indians. Experts have been calling for Nepal to restrict the number of permits. It awarded a record 381 for this spring each fetching \$11,000 (climbing from the Tibet side is more expensive). On 22nd May, 200 climbers ascended the summit, a new record for a single day. Last year, 807 managed to reach the summit. In 2012, the United Nations estimated that there were more than 26,000 visitors to the Everest region, and this figure has grown manifold since then. Nepal officials argue that permits are not issued recklessly, and that jams such as this year's near the summit are on account of spells of bad weather, which result in mountaineers

Passage



being compelled to reach the summit within a narrow time frame. Waiting in sub-zero temperatures at rarefied altitude can be fatal--- this season's deaths were mostly due to frostbite, exhaustion, dehydration and lack of oxygen.

This year's drama has caught public imagination, as happened in 1996 when eight persons died in a single day amid an unexpected storm - events of and around that day were the subject of Jon Krakauer's bestselling book 'Into Thin Air'. The adventure industry that is built around the human desire to scale the peak has meant many amateurs take up the challenge, confident that support teams and specialized equipment will make up for their lack of adequate mountaineering experience. The fallout is that in case of a disaster not only are some of them unable to manage but they also hold up others, putting them in harm's way. The commercial operations have led to the Everest being called the world's highest garbage dump as many climbers discard non-critical gear, used oxygen cylinders, plastic bottles, cans, batteries, food wrappings, fecal matter and kitchen waste on the mountains. It is unlikely, however, that this season's tragedies will deter future summiteers, as the hypnotic lure remains intact. But the authorities must learn from this year's tragedies and work out an optimum number of climbers and strengthen safety measures.

1. What is the theme of this newspaper editorial?

Select the most appropriate combination of factors given below.

- a. Overcrowding of Mount Everest on 22nd May, 2019.
b. The urgent necessity to introduce and implement adequate safety measures to prevent man-made disasters.
c. Not to treat the ascent of the highest peak as an adventure sport.

- d. Refuse permits to amateur climbers.
e. Disallow tour operating companies from crowding the base-camp.

- 1. c & d 2. b & c
3. a & e 4. a & b

2. Fill in the blank to complete the statement.

In 2019 _____ people have lost their lives on Mt. Everest.

- 1. eleven 2. eight 3. nine 4. ten

3. What image has Nirmal Purja's viral photograph captured?

- 1. A long queue of climbers on the final stretch of a steep slope.
2. Dead bodies of mountaineers on the route of the highest peak.
3. The accumulated garbage on the mountain slopes.
4. Exhausted mountaineers falling unconscious on the way up.

4. Why was the Nepal Government criticized recently?

- 1. For not providing optimum facilities to the mountaineers.
2. For charging a hefty fee to issue a permit.
3. For allowing too many tour operators at the Everest Base Camp Site.
4. For issuing 381 permits to aspiring climbers.

5. Why, according to the text, do most climbers prefer to climb the Everest from Nepal side?

- 1. Nepali people are keen to help the climbers because this is their only way to earn money.
2. International mountaineers are not allowed in Chinese territory.

Passage



- 3. Nepal provides better logistical support than India.
- 4. Climbing the Everest from Nepal side is cheaper than the Tibet side

6. Choose the factor, which was NOT responsible for the death of mountaineers in May, 2019.

- 1. Dehydration
- 2. Lack of food
- 3. Lack of oxygen
- 4. Frost bite and exhaustion

7. If an amateur mountaineer is one who climbs mountains as a hobby, which word in the text, describes an experienced one.

- 1. reckless mountaineer
- 2. ex-soldier climber
- 3. adventure climber
- 4. hardened mountaineer

8. How are amateur mountaineers a threat to others?

- 1. Amateurs are dependent on their support teams and cannot manage anything on their own.
- 2. Amateurs, because of their inexperience and slow pace, are exposed to all kinds of hazards.
- 3. Amateurs need specialized equipment to make up for their inexperience.
- 4. Amateurs hold up other mountaineers in case of unforeseen disasters because they are not self-reliant

9. Identify the INCORRECT OPTION.

The Everest has become the 'highest garbage dump' as many climbers leave behind _____

- 1. kitchen waste
- 2. protective clothing.
- 3. empty food c and bottles
- 4. spent oxygen tanks

10. Select the INCORRECT Option.

'Into Thin Air' is _____

- 1. a best- selling book.
- 2. based on an unexpected storm in the Himalayas.
- 3. an account of the death of eight people in a single day.
- 4. an incident that happened in 1999.

41. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

Brain training is big business. From online websites to video games to mobile apps, it seems like there are plenty of ways to give your brain a bit of a boost. But does all this brain training really work? Can it increase your cognitive abilities or your IQ? According to a few recent studies, while these brain training tools might help sharpen your abilities to retain information, they won't necessarily increase your intelligence or improve your ability to reason and think abstractly.

The parent company of one of the most prominent "brain training" websites was recently fined for deceptive advertising. According to the complainant, the company suggested its games could reduce or delay cognitive impairment such as one might find in Alzheimer's patients, which is false. So while there may be some benefits to brain training, don't expect miraculous results. Earlier studies have found no link between increased intelligence and brain training exercises. Same is the case with standardized tests. Students today take a wide variety of standardized tests, from assessments throughout elementary school to evaluations required for college admission. While test preparation for such assessments can increase factual knowledge, one study suggests that this preparation does little to increase overall IQ.

Why is it so? While test preparation increases what psychologists refer to as crystallized intelligence, it

Passage



does not increase what is known as fluid intelligence. Crystallized intelligence includes facts and information, while fluid intelligence involves the ability to think abstractly or logically.

In a study published in the journal Psychological Science, researchers looked at the IQ scores and test scores of approximately 1,400 eighth-grade students. While schoolwork helped increase the students' test scores, it had no effect on measures of fluid intelligence. The authors suggest that fluid intelligence is a much better indicator of abilities such as problemsolving ability, abstract thinking skills, memory capacity, and processing speed.

While the study found no indicator that test preparation improved IQ, that does not mean that this preparation has no value. Research clearly shows that having high scores on standardized tests is linked to having high scores on other important tests including Advanced Placement tests, the SAT etc.

1. In the passage, 'give your brain a bit of a boost' me to -

- 1. increase its ability to grow stronger
2. be able to play video games
3. increase its size
4. sharpen it

2. What do brain training tools do?

- 1. Enable you to retain information
2. Sharpen the ability to think clearly
3. Increase intelligence
4. Improve problem solving abilities

3. A brain training site was fined for-

- 1. making false claims
2. causing Alzheimer's disease
3. helping improve learning ability

4. decreasing intelligence

4. On comparing crystallized intelligence and fluid intelligence it is found that

- 1. students have better fluid intelligence and perform better because of schoolwork and standardized test.
2. crystallized intelligence helps in making you think with a logical mind gives you better test scores.
3. fluid intelligence is what gives a learner skills such as problem-solving and processing of information.
4. crystallized intelligence is better because it helps you learn facts and information.

5. From the passage one can arrive at the conclusion that both brain training and standardized tests -

- 1. do not really increase overall IQ and mental abilities.
2. sharpen logical thinking through intensive training.
3. increase brain functioning and performance.
4. make you more intelligent and get better results.

42. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

Since September, at least 25 people have died and thousands have been made homeless. Every state and territory in Australia has experienced fires this summer. But the biggest fires burn along stretches of the eastern and southern coast, where most of the population lives.

This includes areas around Sydney and Adelaide. More than 6.3 million hectares (63,000 sq km or 15.6 million acres) have been burned so far – one hectare is roughly the size of a sports field. To put that in perspective, around 800,000 hectares were engulfed in a bush fire in 2018 in California.



Passage



Australia has always experienced bushfires – it has a "fire season". But this year they are a lot worse than normal.

Fires are usually caused by lightning strikes or accidentally by a spark – but some fires are also started deliberately. This year, a natural weather phenomenon known as the 'Indian Ocean Dipole' has meant a hot, dry spell across the country. This year, Australia twice set a new temperature record: an average maximum of 41.9°C was recorded on 18 December.

That comes on top of a long period of drought. Scientists have long warned that this hotter, drier climate will contribute to fires becoming more frequent and more intense. The more extreme weather patterns and higher temperatures increase the risk of bushfires and allow them to spread faster and wider.

Fire fighters are spraying water and fire retardant from planes and helicopters as well as from the ground. But fighting bush fires is extremely difficult and often authorities have to focus on just stopping the spread, rather than putting the fire out. The spread can for instance be best contained by digging earth boundaries to stop the flames from spreading. The priority is saving lives.

Professional fire fighters are the first in line to battle the flames, but they are outnumbered by the thousands of volunteers. Three of them have died. There's also help coming from abroad: the US, Canada and New Zealand have sent fire fighters to help. Australia's police, military and navy are involved in rescue and evacuation efforts.

While people can flee the fires and are being evacuated if need be, the flames are devastating wildlife in the affected areas. One study estimated that half a billion animals have died in New South Wales alone.

Zookeepers take animals home to save them from fire, but the fires don't only kill animals directly, they also destroy the habitat, leaving the survivors vulnerable even when the fires have gone. So the true scale of loss isn't yet clear. Experts say more than 100,000 cows and sheep may also have been lost, which is devastating for farmers.

Each state runs its own emergency operation, but Prime Minister Scott Morrison has promised better funding for fire-fighting and payouts for volunteer fire fighters, and an additional A\$2billion (\$1.4billion; £1billion) for the recovery.

But the national government has come under strong criticism from its opponents that it has not been doing enough against climate change. The country is one of the world's biggest per capita greenhouse gas emitters but under international agreements it has committed itself to reduction targets.

1. "Authorities have to focus on just stopping the spread, rather than putting the fire out." This means that the authorities:

1. want only to slow down the spread of fire
2. do not want to put the fires out
3. want to stop the fires from spreading first and then put them out
4. want to put out the fires once and for all

2. What is the long lasting damage that the bush fires have caused to the wildlife in Australia?

1. The fires have not only killed animals directly, but also destroyed their habitat.
2. Many animals in the zoos have been killed.
3. Half a billion animals have died in New South Wales alone.
4. More than 100,000 cows and sheep may have been lost

Passage



3. Which of the following countries has NOT sent help for firefighting?

- 1. China 2. The US
- 3. Canada 4. New Zealand

4. "Some fires are also started deliberately". 'Deliberately' here means:

- 1. inadvertently 2. accidentally
- 3. unknowingly 4. purposely

5. The passage is mainly about:

- 1. Australia's struggle with bush fires
- 2. how the bush fires occur in Australia
- 3. the government's role in dealing with the bushfire
- 4. the loss of wildlife due to bush fires

6. It can be inferred from the passage that this year's fire in Australia is mostly a result of:

- 1. a lightning strike
- 2. an accidental spark in the jungle
- 3. a result of an extraordinarily hot and dry spell
- 4. a deliberate attempt to put the forests on fire

7. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. Zookeepers take animals home to save them from fire.
- 2. The volunteers outnumber the professional fire fighters in Australia.
- 3. Around 800,000 hectares have been destroyed due to a bush fire in Australia.
- 4. Australia is one of the world's biggest per capita greenhouse gas emitters.

8. The opposition in Australia is criticising the government for:

- 1. not fighting the bush fires
- 2. not allotting enough funds for firefighting
- 3. not doing enough against the climate change
- 4. not giving enough compensation to the deceased

9. The spread of fire can be contained effectively by:

- 1. digging earth boundaries
- 2. spraying fire retardant from the ground
- 3. spraying fire retardant from the air
- 4. spraying the forests with water

10. Where did the biggest fires burn in Australia?

- 1. Along the western and southern coasts
- 2. Along the eastern and northern coasts
- 3. Along the western and northern coasts
- 4. Along the eastern and southern coasts

43. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

The Celts who lived in Britain before the Roman invasion of 43 AD could be said to have created the first towns. Celts in southern England lived in hill forts, which were quite large settlements. (Some probably had thousands of inhabitants). They were places of trade, where people bought and sold goods and also places where craftsmen worked. The Romans called them oppida.

However, the Romans created the first settlements that were undoubtedly towns. Roman towns were usually laid out in a grid pattern. In the centre was the forum or market place. It was lined with public buildings. Life in Roman towns was highly civilized with public baths and temples.

Passage



From the 5th century Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded England. At first, the invaders avoided living in towns. However, as trade grew some towns grew up. London revived by the 7th century (although the Saxon town was, at first, outside the walls of the old Roman town). Southampton was founded at the end of the 7th century. Hereford was founded in the 8th century. Furthermore, Ipswich grew up in the 8th century and York revived.

However, towns were rare in Saxon England until the late 9th century. At that time, Alfred the Great created a network of fortified settlements across his kingdom called 'burhs'. In the event of a Danish attack, men could gather in the local burh. However, burhs were more than forts.

They were also market towns. Some burhs were started from scratch but many were created out of the ruins of old Roman towns. Places like Winchester rose, phoenix-like, from the ashes of history.

The thing that would strike us most about medieval towns would be their small size. Winchester, the capital of England, probably had about 8,000 people. At that time a 'large' town, like Lincoln or Dublin had about 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants and a 'medium sized' town, like Colchester had about 2,500 people. Many towns were much smaller.

However, during the 12th and 13th centuries most towns grew much larger. Furthermore, many new towns were created across Britain. Trade and commerce were increasing and there was a need for new towns. Some were created from existing villages but some were created from scratch. In those days you could create a town simply by starting a market.

There were few shops so if you wished to buy or sell anything you had to go to a market. Once one was up and running, craftsmen and merchants would come to live in the area and a town would grow.

1. Match the words with their meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. founded | 1. protected |
| b. declined | 2. created |
| c. fortified | 3. dwindled |
-
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. a-1, b-3, c-2 | 2. a-2, b-3, c-1 |
| 3. a-3, b-2, c-1 | 4. a-2, b-1, c-3 |

2. Alfred the Great created fortified settlements across his kingdom mainly because:

1. people could live there
2. they provided shelter from Danish attacks
3. merchants could come and sell their goods there
4. craftsmen could craft their artefacts there

3. The hill forts of Celts were called:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Oppida | 2. Burhs |
| 3. Centres | 4. Forums |

4. Who were the first creators of towns in England?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Celts | 2. Angles |
| 3. Saxons | 4. Rom |

5. "Some were created from scratch." The towns which started from scratch were created by first:

1. starting a market
2. establishing a settlement
3. building houses
4. building a fort

6. Which of the following was the capital of England during medieval times?

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Dublin | 2. Winchester |
| 3. London | 4. Colchester |

Passage



7. What lay in the center of Roman towns?

- 1. Market places 2. Residences
3. Temples 4. Baths

8. "At first, the invaders avoided living in towns." Who is / are being referred to here as 'invaders'?

- 1. Saxons, Angles and Jutes 2. Alfred the Great
3. Celts 4. Rom

9. When was Southampton founded?

- 1. in the 8th century 2. in the 7th century
3. in the 12th century 4. in the 6th century

10. The passage mainly talks about:

- 1. the increase of trade in England
2. the development of markets in England
3. the early life in England
4. the history of towns in England

44. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

The giraffe is the tallest land mammal alive, its long legs and neck contributing to its impressive stature. Males can be up to 18ft (5.5m tall), females a little less.

In the wild, these beautiful creatures stretch their necks beyond those of antelope, kudu and even elephants to strip leaves from the untouched upper reaches of trees.

The French zoologist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck is usually credited as the first person to suggest that long necks have evolved in giraffes because they allow them to get to the parts other herbivores cannot reach.

As the giraffe lives "in places where the soil is nearly always arid and barren, it is obliged to browse on the

leaves of trees and to make constant efforts to reach them," he wrote in his 1809 book 'Philosophie Zoologique'. "From this habit long maintained in all its race, it has resulted that the animal's fore-legs have become longer than its hind legs, and that its neck is lengthened."

The English naturalist Charles Darwin also thought the giraffe's extraordinary legs and neck must have something to do with foraging. "The giraffe, by its lofty stature, much elongated neck, fore-legs, head and tongue, has its whole frame beautifully adapted for browsing on the higher branches of trees," he wrote in 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859.

In short, giraffes' long necks are the result of generation upon generation of repeated stretching and inheritance. During the dry season when feeding competition should be most intense giraffe generally feed from low shrubs, not tall trees. What's more, giraffes feed most often and faster with their necks bent.

Male giraffes often fight for access to females, a ritual referred to as "necking". The rivals stand flank to flank, then start to whack each other with their heads. The top or back of the well - armoured skull is used as a club to strike the neck, chest, ribs, or legs of the opponent with a force capable of knocking a competitor off balance or unconscious.

The largest males usually win these battles and do most of the breeding, says zoologist Anne Innis Dagg of the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, who has been studying giraffes since the 1950s. "The other giraffes don't get much breeding opportunity." There is also evidence that females are more receptive to advances from larger males.

1. Match the words with their meanings.

- a. forage 1. hit
b. stretch 2. search

Passage



c. whack 3. draw out

1. a-3, b-2, c-1 2. a-2, b-3, c-1

3. a-2, b-1, c-3 4. a-1, b-3, c-2

2. Giraffe's feeding is faster when it feeds with its neck:

1. bent 2. elongated

3. straight 4. entangled

3. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

1. The largest male giraffe usually wins the battles and does most of the breeding.
2. Giraffes' long necks are the result of repeated stretching over the years.
3. The giraffe can eat leaves from the upper reaches of a tree where other animals cannot reach.
4. A giraffe's hind-legs are longer than its fore-legs and help it to bend.

4. According to the passage, 'necking' is the:

1. repeated stretching of the neck
2. elongation of the giraffes' neck
3. breeding by the largest males
4. fight to woo the females

5. How does a giraffe knock its opponent off balance or unconscious?

1. By pulling the legs of the opponent
2. By using its head as a club and hitting the opponent
3. By biting the opponent's neck, chest and ribs
4. By entangling its neck in the opponent's neck

45. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it

The stark observation made in the Economic Survey of 2015-16 that "Indian agriculture, is in a way, a victim of its own past success – especially the green revolution", shows the dark reality of the agriculture sector at present and the havoc that has been wreaked by the green revolution.

The green revolution, which is often characterised by the introduction of high-yielding variety of seeds and fertilisers, undoubtedly increased the productivity of land considerably. But the growth in the productivity has been stagnant in recent years, resulting in a significant decline in the income of farmers. There have also been negative environmental effects in the form of depleting water table, emission of greenhouse gases, and the contamination of surface and ground water. Needless to say, the agriculture sector is in a state of distress, which is severely affecting peasants and marginal farmers, and urgent policy interventions are required to protect their interests. The government has responded to the problem by constituting a panel, which will recommend ways to double the income of farmers by 2022. While this may be an overtly ambitious target, if we want to boost stagnated agricultural growth a shift has to be made from food security of the nation to income security of the farmers. However, there are many hurdles that have to be crossed if we want to achieve this objective.

The first major barrier to overcome is declining productivity. Data from 2013 reveals that India's average yield of cereal per hectare is far less than that of many countries (including several low income countries), but the difference is huge when compared to China. For instance, our average yield per hectare is 39% below than that of China and for rice this figure is 46%. Even Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia fare better than India in case of rice yield.

Passage



Further, there is a huge inter-regional variation; the wheat and rice yield from Haryana and Punjab is much higher than from the other states. In order to cross the declining productivity barrier there is a need to herald a rainbow revolution by making a shift from wheat-rice cycle to other cereals and pulses. Since wheat and rice coupled with other crops are backed by minimum support prices (MSP) and input subsidy (whether water, fertiliser or power) regime, there is a huge incentive for the farmers in the irrigated region of Northwest India to grow these crops.

1. As per the passage, which country has the highest yield of rice per hectare?

- 1. Vietnam
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. China
- 4. Indonesia

2. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. High yielding seeds and fertilizers were a hallmark of green revolution.
- 2. The rice yield in India is below that of China by 39%.
- 3. The growth in productivity has stagnated today.
- 4. In Northwest India, farmers get subsidies on rice, wheat and other crops.

3. What does the author suggest to enhance the income of the farmers?

- 1. Constitute a panel to suggest ways to double the income
- 2. Provide income security to the farmers
- 3. Give subsidies on water, fertilizers and power
- 4. Shift wheat-rice cycle to include other cereals and pulses

4. The purpose of this passage is to:

- 1. suggest measures for improving the farmers' lot
- 2. talk about the consequences of the green revolution
- 3. compare Indian agriculture with that of other countries
- 4. express the anguish of the farmers

5. As per the passage, what is the main cause of decline in the income of farmers?

- 1. Emission of greenhouse gases
- 2. Decline in agricultural production
- 3. Depleting water table
- 4. Contamination of ground water

46. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in 'The Republic' (his most important work on philosophy and political theory, written around 360 B.C.). In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. He believed that education should be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art. Plato believed that talent and intelligence is not distributed genetically and thus is to be found in children born to all classes, although his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not really follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in

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education, the ultimate aim of which should be to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically, and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits, unlike Socrates' emphasis on questioning his listeners to bring out their own ideas. He emphasized the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history, and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

1. Which of these methods is NOT advocated in 'The Republic'?

1. Differentiating children based on castes
2. Imparting similar education to all children
3. Bringing up children under state guardianship
4. Keeping children away from mothers

2. Aristotle believed that virtuous citizens could be produced by cultivating:

1. art and music
2. mathematics and science
3. theoretical aspects of education
4. habit and reason

3. What tool does Aristotle advocate to teachers to develop good habits in students?

1. Writing
2. Reading
3. Questioning
4. Repetition

4. Children who are imparted highest education, would be responsible for:

1. developing talent and skills

2. inculcating good habits

3. guarding the city

4. teaching the illiterate

5. Which of these statements is NOT true?

1. Socrates encouraged the listeners to come up with original ideas.
2. The Republic was written around 360 A.D.
3. Socrates considered music and physical education as important aspects of learning.
4. Plato's methods of education can be called 'extreme'.

47. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Chanhudaro was a tiny settlement (less than 7 hectares) as compared to Mohenjodaro (125 hectares), almost exclusively devoted to craft production, including bead-making, shell cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making. The variety of materials used to make beads is remarkable: stones like carnelian (of a beautiful red colour), jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite; metals like copper, bronze and gold; and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay. Some beads were made of two or more stones, cemented together, some of stone with gold caps. The shapes were numerous – disc shaped, cylindrical, spherical, barrel-shaped, segmented. Some were decorated by incising or painting, and some had designs etched onto them.

Techniques for making beads differed according to the material. Steatite, a very soft stone, was easily worked. Some beads were moulded out of a paste made with steatite powder. This permitted making a variety of shapes, unlike the geometrical forms made out of harder stones. How the steatite micro bead was made remains a puzzle for archaeologists studying ancient technology. Archaeologists' experiments have revealed that the red colour of carnelian was obtained by firing the yellowish raw

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material and beads at various stages of production. Nodules were chipped into rough shapes, and then finely flaked into the final form.

Grinding, polishing and finally drilling completed the process. Specialised drills have been found at Chanhudaro, Lothal and more recently at Dholavira. Nageshwar and Balakot, both settlements are near the coast. These were specialised centres for making shell objects – including bangles, ladles and inlay – which were taken to other settlements. Similarly, it is likely that finished products (such as beads) from Chanhudaro and Lothal were taken to the large urban centres such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

1. Which of these stones is very soft and easy to mould?

- 1. Quartz
- 2. Steatite
- 3. Jasper
- 4. Crystal

2. Which of these statements is NOT true?

- 1. Beads were made in numerous shapes and sizes.
- 2. Chanhudaro was exclusively devoted to craft production.
- 3. Carnelian is a beautiful bluish stone.
- 4. Harappa and Mohenjodaro were large urban centres.

3. Which is the final process in the production of beads?

- 1. Polishing
- 2. Drilling
- 3. Grinding
- 4. Chipping

4. According to the text, which of these crafts was Not practised in Chanhudaro?

- 1. Weight making
- 2. Seal making
- 3. Metal cutting
- 4. Paper making

5. Shell objects were mostly made at Nageshwar and Balakot because:

- 1. the women loved to wear bangles made of shells
- 2. shells were readily available in these coastal areas
- 3. specialised drills were found here
- 4. shells were transported here from Lothal

48. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Santiniketan embodies Rabindranath Tagore's vision of a place of learning that is unfettered by religious and regional barriers. Established in 1863 with the aim of helping education go beyond the confines of the classroom, Santiniketan grew into the Visva Bharati University in 1921, attracting some of the most creative minds in the country.

He developed a curriculum that was a unique blend of art, human values and cultural interchange. Even today, in every step, in every brick and in every tree at Santiniketan, one can still feel his presence, his passion, his dedication and his pride in the institution.

In 1862, Maharishi Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath, was taking a boat ride through Birbhum, the westernmost corner of Bengal, when he came across a landscape that struck him as the perfect place for meditation. He bought the large tract of land and built a small house and planted some saplings around it. Debendranath Tagore decided to call the place Santiniketan, or the 'abode of peace', because of the serenity it brought to his soul. In 1863, he turned it into a spiritual centre where people from all religions, castes and creeds came and participated in meditation.

In the years that followed, Debendranath's son Rabindranath went on to become one of the most formidable literary forces India has ever produced. He wrote in all literary genres but he was first and

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foremost a poet. As one of the earliest educators to think in terms of the global village, he envisioned an education that was deeply rooted in one's immediate surroundings but connected to the cultures of the wider world.

Located in the heart of nature, the school aimed to combine education with a sense of obligation towards the larger civic community. Blending the best of western and traditional eastern systems of education, the curriculum revolved organically around nature with classes being held in the open air. Tagore wanted his students to feel free despite being in the formal learning environment of a school, because he himself had dropped out of school when he found himself unable to think and felt claustrophobic within the four walls of a classroom.

Nature walks and excursions were a part of the curriculum, special attention was paid to natural phenomena and students were encouraged to follow the life cycles of insects, birds and plants. The rural paradise of Santiniketan, Tagore's erstwhile home, has become a thriving center of art, education and internationalism over the years.

1. Rabindranath was a 'formidable' literary force. This implies he was:

- 1. a powerful writer 2. an avid reader of books
3. an orthodox educationist
4. a wealthy landowner

2. With what aim was Santiniketan established?

- 1. To nurture plants, birds and insects
2. To attract the most creative minds
3. To encourage education outside the classroom
4. To make it the perfect place for meditation

3. The word 'unfettered' in the text suggests:

- 1. free from barriers 2. outside the classroom

- 3. restricted by regional differences
4. bound by religious beliefs

4. What did Santiniketan initially serve as?

- 1. A classroom 2. A spiritual center
3. A holiday resort 4. A summer house

5. Tagore's 'erstwhile' home means:

- 1. former home 2. rural retreat
3. serene abode 4. magnificent house

6. Which of these statements about Santiniketan is NOT true?

- 1. Santiniketan grew into Visva Bharati university.
2. Santiniketan is located in the western most part of Bengal.
3. At Santiniketan, classes were held in the open air.
4. Santiniketan was set up by Rabindranath Tagore.

7. When did Santiniketan grow into a university?

- 1. In 1863 2. In 1922 3. In 1862 4. In 1921

8. What does the name Santiniketan mean?

- 1. Abode of love 2. Abode of peace
3. Abode of learning 4. Abode of culture

9. Why did Rabindranath drop out of school?

- 1. He found the curriculum too tough.
2. He wanted a formal learning environment.
3. He felt stifled within the classroom.
4. He was not interested in studies.

10. The curriculum designed for Santiniketan was a blend of:

- 1. western education and village practices
2. spiritual and religious exchange

Passage



- 3. human values, art and culture
- 4. science and religion

49. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

As far as industrial pollution is concerned, while a commendable job has been done by the department of environment in making environmental impact assessment studies and ensuring that new big industries have built-in systems for pollution abatement and control, the problem of controlling pollution caused by small new units and existing plants had so far eluded solution. The 1986 Act has undoubtedly given greater legal powers to State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities to penalise offenders. However, it must be recognised that punitive action alone will not suffice. If we are really serious about controlling industrial pollution, the carrot must be used along with the stick.

1. The problem of controlling industrial pollution remains unsolved because

- (A) offenders are not punished
- (B) state pollution boards and other concerned authorities haven't got sufficient legal powers to deal with the offenders
- (C) the industrialist are not cooperating with the government
- (D) the problem has not been dealt with in a comprehensive manner

2. The author feels that the 1986 Act

- (A) gives more legal powers to State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities
- (B) is not of much help in controlling industrial pollution
- (C) deters offenders

(D) is of immense help in controlling industrial pollution

3. Industrial pollution can be controlled only when

- (A) the policy of reward and punishment is introduced
- (B) no small units are allowed to come
- (C) existing plants without pollution abatements and control systems are closed down
- (D) state pollution boards and other concerned authorities are given more legal powers to deal with the offenders

4. In order to control industrial pollution

- (A) only such new big industries should be allowed to come up that have built in systems for pollution control
- (B) no new big industries should be allowed to come up
- (C) no new small units should be allowed to come up
- (D) existing plants without pollution abatement and control systems should be closed down

50. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Her name was Sulekha, but since her childhood everyone had been calling her Bholi, the simpleton. She was the fourth daughter of Ramlal. When she was ten months old, she had fallen off the cot on her head and perhaps it had damaged some part of her brain. That was why she remained a backward child and came to be known as Bholi, the simpleton. At birth, the child was very fair and pretty. But when she was two years old, she had an attack of smallpox. Only the eyes were saved, but the entire body was permanently disfigured by deep black pockmarks. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five as she was a slow learner, and when at last she learnt to

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she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her. As a result, she talked very little. Ramlal had seven children — three sons and four daughters, and the youngest of them was Bholi. It was a prosperous farmer's household and there was plenty to eat and drink. All the children except Bholi were healthy and strong. The sons had been sent to the city to study in schools and later in colleges. Of the daughters, Radha, the eldest, had already been married. The second daughter Mangla's marriage had also been settled, and when that was done, Ramlal would think of the third, Champa. They were good-looking, healthy girls, and it was not difficult to find bridegrooms for them. But Ramlal was worried about Bholi. She had neither good looks nor intelligence. From her very childhood Bholi was neglected at home. She was seven years old when Mangla was married. The same year a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The Tehsildar sahib came to perform its opening ceremony. He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school." That night when Ramlal consulted his wife, she cried, "Are you crazy? If girls go to school, who will marry them?" But Ramlal had not the courage to disobey the Tehsildar. At last his wife said, "I will tell you what to do. Send Bholi to school. As it is, there is little chance of her getting married, with her ugly face and lack of sense. Let the teachers at school worry about her."

1. The word 'disfigured' suggests that Bholi's looks were:

- 1. improved
- 2. impaired
- 3. preserved
- 4. enhanced

2. 'Backward child' in the passage means:

- 1. physically challenged
- 2. mentally challenged
- 3. belonging to a poor family
- 4. belonging to an underprivileged community

3. Bholi's mother agreed to send her to school because:

- 1. she wanted to educate Bholi
- 2. she cared for Bholi's well-being
- 3. she wanted to wash her hands off Bholi
- 4. Bholi was neglected at home

4. What did the small pox attack do to Sulekha?

- 1. It damaged her speech.
- 2. It made her look ugly.
- 3. It damaged her eyes.
- 4. It made her dull.

5. Who was invited to inaugurate the girls' school?

- 1. Tehsildar
- 2. Revenue official
- 3. Village head
- 4. School Headmaster

6. How was Ramlal expected to set an example for the villagers?

- 1. By sending his daughters to school
- 2. By treating Bholi as an equal
- 3. By marrying off his daughters at an early age
- 4. By sending his sons to school

7. Which of these statements is NOT true about Bholi?

- 1. She was neglected by her family.
- 2. She was a simpleton.
- 3. She was healthy and strong.
- 4. She was seven when her eldest sister got married.

8. Why was Ramlal worried about Bholi?

- 1. She was not willing to get educated.
- 2. She was too old to get married.
- 3. It would be difficult to arrange her marriage.
- 4. It was difficult to comprehend her speech.

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9. Sulekha came to be called Bholi because she was:

- 1. fair and pretty 2. healthy and strong 3. the youngest daughter 4. not very intelligent

10. At what age did Sulekha damage her brain?

- 1. Ten months 2. Five years 3. Two years 4. Seven years

51. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow

The first time that Agha Shahid Ali spoke to me about his approaching death was on 25 April 2001. The conversation began routinely. I had telephoned to remind him that we had been invited to a friend's house for lunch. Although he had been under treatment for cancer for some fourteen months, Shahid was still on his feet and perfectly lucid, except for occasional lapses of memory. I heard him thumbing through his engagement book and then suddenly he said: 'Oh dear. I can't see a thing.' There was a brief pause and then he added: 'I hope this doesn't mean that I'm dying...' I did not know how to respond: his voice was completely at odds with the content of what he had just said, light to the point of jocularity. I mumbled something innocuous: 'No Shahid — of course not. You'll be fine.' He cut me short. In a tone of voice that was at once quizzical and direct, he said: 'When it happens I hope you'll write something about me.'

I was shocked into silence and a long moment passed before I could bring myself to say the things that people say on such occasions. 'Shahid you'll be fine; you have to be strong...' From the window of my study I could see a corner of the building in which he lived, some eight blocks away. It was just a few months since he moved there: he had been living a few miles away, in Manhattan, when he had a sudden blackout in February 2000. After tests revealed that

he had a malignant brain tumour, he decided to move to Brooklyn, to be close to his youngest sister, Sameetah, who teaches at the Pratt Institute—a few blocks away from the street where I live. Shahid ignored my reassurances. He began to laugh and it was then that I realised that he was dead serious. I understood that he was entrusting me with a quite specific charge: he wanted me to remember him not through the spoken recitatives of memory and friendship, but through the written word.

He knew that my instincts would have led me to search for reasons to avoid writing about his death: I would have told myself that I was not a poet; that our friendship was of recent date; that there were many others who knew him much better and would be writing from greater understanding and knowledge. All this Shahid had guessed and he had decided to shut off those routes while there was still time. 'You must write about me.' Finally, I said: 'Shahid, I will: I'll do the best I can.'

1. What did Shahid request the narrator to do?

- 1. Write about him after his death 2. Take him along for lunch at their friend's place 3. Move to his house in Manhattan 4. Be strong and bear the loss bravely

2. Shahid was perfectly 'lucid'. This suggests he was:

- 1. confused 2. in a delirium 3. speaking coherently 4. not intelligible

3. Shahid's voice was full of 'jocularity'. This means it was:

- 1. humorous 2. bitter 3. melodious 4. sorrowful

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4. Which of these was NOT an excuse that the narrator thought of to decline Shahid's request?

1. That others knew Shahid better
2. That their friendship was quite recent
3. That he was too busy
4. That he was not a poet

5. Why had the narrator called Shahid Ali?

1. To remind him about a lunch invitation
2. To cheer him up in his depression
3. To enquire about his health
4. To give him an important task

6. Shahid had moved to Brooklyn to:

1. get treatment for cancer
2. fulfil certain engagements
3. teach at Pratt Institute
4. be close to his youngest sister

7. The narrator was reluctant to write about Shahid because:

1. the subject did not interest him
2. he didn't have enough time
3. he wouldn't be paid for it
4. it would be emotionally tough for him

8. What made Shahid think his end was near?

1. He was unable to think clearly.
2. He was unable to stand on his feet.
3. He couldn't utter a word.
4. He suddenly couldn't see anything.

9. What kind of person was Shahid Ali?

1. Forgetful
2. Full of life
3. Dangerous
4. Depressed

10. What disease was Shahid Ali suffering from?

1. Brain tumour
2. Blood cancer
3. Loss of memory
4. Blindness

52. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Roman Empire covered a vast stretch of territory that included most of Europe as we know it today and a large part of the Fertile Crescent and North Africa. The Roman empire embraced a wealth of local cultures and languages; that women had a stronger legal position than they do in many countries today; but also that much of the economy was run on slave labour, denying freedom to substantial numbers of persons. From the fifth century onwards, the empire fell apart in the west but remained intact and exceptionally prosperous in its eastern half.

Roman historians have a rich collection of sources to go on, which we can broadly divide into three groups: (a) texts, (b) documents and (c) material remains. Textual sources include letters, speeches, sermons, laws, and histories of the period written by contemporaries. These were usually called 'Annals' because the narrative was constructed on a year-by-year basis. Documentary sources include mainly inscriptions and papyri. Inscriptions were usually cut on stone, so a large number survive, in both Greek and Latin. The 'papyrus' was a reed like plant that grew along the banks of the Nile in Egypt and was processed to produce sheets of writing material that was very widely used in everyday life. Thousands of contracts, accounts, letters and official documents survive 'on papyrus' and have been published by scholars who are called 'papyrologists'. Material remains include a very wide assortment of items that mainly archaeologists discover (for example, through excavation and field survey), for example, buildings, monuments and other kinds of structures, pottery, coins, mosaics, even entire landscapes. Each of these sources can only tell us just so much about the

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past, and combining them can be a fruitful exercise, but how well this is done depends on the historian's skill!

1. Which of these statements is NOT true?

1. Texts, documents and material remains were the main sources for the historians.
2. Inscriptions were carved in Greek and Latin.
3. Archaeologists make discoveries through excavations.
4. The Roman empire flourished longer in the west

2. Who were papyrologists?

1. People who processed papyrus into sheets
2. Scholars who published documents
3. Farmers who cultivated papyrus
4. People who surveyed the reed like plants along the Nile

3. Much of the economy in the Roman empire was run on:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. slave labour | 2. scholars |
| 3. women | 4. archaeologists |

4. Documentary sources of the history of Roman empire include:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. inscriptions | 2. pottery |
| 3. sermons | 4. landscapes |

5. Which of these are NOT material remains?

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Mosaics | 2. Coins |
| 3. Monuments | 4. Annals |

53. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The drainage systems of India are mainly controlled by the broad relief features of the subcontinent.

Accordingly, the Indian rivers are divided into two major groups: the Himalayan rivers; and the Peninsular rivers.

Apart from originating from the two major physiographic regions of India, the Himalayan and the Peninsular rivers are different from each other in many ways. Most of the Himalayan rivers are perennial. It means that they have water throughout the year. These rivers receive water from rain as well as from melted snow from the lofty mountains. The major Himalayan rivers are the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. These rivers are long, and are joined by many large and important tributaries. A river along with its tributaries may be called a river system. The two major Himalayan rivers, the Indus and the Brahmaputra originate from the north of the mountain ranges. They cut through the mountains making gorges in the upper course. The perennial Himalayan rivers have long courses from their source to the sea. They perform intensive erosional activity in their upper courses and carry huge loads of silt and sand with their swift current. In the middle and the lower courses, these rivers form meanders, oxbow lakes, levees and many other depositional features in their floodplains as their speed slackens. They also have well developed deltas.

A large number of the Peninsular rivers like the Godavari, Kaveri and Krishna are seasonal, as their flow is dependent on rainfall. During the dry season when it doesn't rain, even the large rivers have reduced flow of water in their channels. The Peninsular rivers have shorter and shallower courses as compared to their Himalayan counterparts. However, some of them originate in the central highlands and flow towards the west. Most of the rivers of peninsular India originate in the Western Ghats and flow towards the Bay of Bengal.

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1. The word 'seasonal' rivers in the passage means:

1. rivers that never go dry in any season
2. rivers whose flow is dependent upon rainfall
3. rivers that change their course in every season
4. rivers that flood in every season

2. Which of these is NOT a Himalayan river?

1. Indus
2. Godavari
3. Ganga
4. Brahmaputra

3. Himalayan rivers are never dry because they:

1. have a shorter and shallower course
2. are dependent on rainfall only
3. are fed by glaciers and rainfall
4. originate in the Western Ghats

4. The drainage systems of India are controlled by:

1. relief features
2. erosional activity
3. tributaries of rivers
4. depositional features

5. 'Slackened speed' suggests:

1. average speed
2. tremendous speed
3. maximum speed
4. reduced speed

6. Which of these is NOT a depositional feature found in the lower course of a river?

1. Levee
2. Gorge
3. Oxbow lake
4. Meander

7. 'Perennial' rivers mean:

1. receiving water from the rains
2. those that originate in the mountains
3. rivers with a long course
4. full of water throughout the year

8. Erosional activity takes place in the upper course of the river because of:

1. the reduced flow of water
2. huge loads of silt and sand
3. the great speed of water
4. the presence of flood plains

9. A river along with its tributaries may be called a:

1. highland
2. river system
3. peninsula
4. flood plain

10. Which of these statements is NOT true about perennial rivers?

1. They have a very short dry season.
2. They cover very long distances till they reach the sea.
3. Most of them originate in the Himalayas.
4. They have well developed deltas.

54. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Cambridge was my metaphor for England, and it was strange that when I left it had become altogether something else, because I had met Stephen Hawking there. It was on a walking tour through Cambridge that the guide mentioned Stephen Hawking, 'poor man, who is quite disabled now, though he is a worthy successor to Isaac Newton, whose chair he has at the university.' And I started, because I had quite forgotten that this most brilliant and completely paralysed astrophysicist, (scholar of astrophysics — branch of physics dealing with stars, planets, etc.) the author of A Brief History of Time, one of the biggest best-sellers ever, lived here. When the walking tour was done, I rushed to a phone booth and, almost tearing the cord so it could reach me outside, phoned Stephen Hawking's house. There

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was his assistant on the line and I told him I had come in a wheelchair from India (perhaps he thought I had propelled myself all the way) to write about my travels in Britain. I had to see Professor Hawking — even ten minutes would do. “Half an hour,” he said. “From three-thirty to four.” And suddenly I felt weak all over. Growing up disabled, you get fed up with people asking you to be brave, as if you have a courage account on which you are too lazy to draw a cheque.

The only thing that makes you stronger is seeing somebody like you, achieving something huge. Then you know how much is possible and you reach out further than you ever thought you could. “I haven’t been brave,” said his disembodied computer-voice, the next afternoon. “I’ve had no choice.” Surely, I wanted to say, living creatively with the reality of his disintegrating body was a choice? But I kept quiet, because I felt guilty every time I spoke to him, forcing him to respond. There he was, tapping at the little switch in his hand, trying to find the words on his computer with the only bit of movement left to him, his long, pale fingers. Every so often, his eyes would shut in frustrated exhaustion. And sitting opposite him I could feel his anguish, the mind buoyant with thoughts that came out in frozen phrases and sentences stiff as corpses.

1. Which of these facts is NOT true about Stephen Hawking?

- 1. A worthy contemporary of Newton
2. A professor at Cambridge
3. A brilliant astrophysicist
4. A paralysed man

2. The narrator pulled the telephone cord outside the phone booth because he was:

- 1. not able to hear clearly in the booth

- 2. desperate to get an appointment with Stephen Hawking
3. unable to enter the booth on a wheelchair
4. eager to call Stephen Hawking’s home

3. Complete the sentence to make it true.

The narrator:

- 1. is the author of A Brief History of Time
2. dislikes people asking him to be brave
3. came to Britain to study astrophysics
4. met Stephen Hawking accidentally

4. The narrator felt the professor’s anguish in:

- 1. his effort to put up a brave front
2. the extreme exhaustion in his face
3. the loss of movement in his legs
4. his inability to express his thoughts in words

5. Astrophysics deals with:

- 1. stars and planets
2. creative writing
3. diseases
4. computers

55. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Many of us have enjoyed visiting a zoo and consider it a day out having fun. Seeing real animals face to face can be thrilling and exciting, but many people wonder whether the animals themselves, while entertaining us, are suffering in the zoos.

Many zoos do not have enough money to provide the animals with the basic features of a proper environment. Most animals are put in an artificial environment (e.g., cages). This isolation from their natural habitat can amount to cruelty. In some zoos, we see concrete floors for burrowing animals like

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rabbits. Cruelty may be shown in ways other than physical abuse or starvation.

Big predators like lions and tigers are created to chase and hunt. By depriving them of these activities, we forget the reason for which they have evolved.

These big cats lie in cages in the zoo eating the food given to them and they have nothing else to do.

Highly intelligent and curious animals like chimpanzees and polar bears may become frustrated in a zoo; they need a challenging environment.

Zoo supporters might argue that zoos provide educational opportunities to the visitors, especially children; if we didn't have animals in zoos, children wouldn't see them at all and be ignorant about them. We live at a time when animals in their natural habitat can be seen on TV or computers, even smart phones, while sitting at home. Therefore, the aim should be to conserve animals in the wild, in protected areas called sanctuaries.

1. According to the passage, animals in zoos suffer cruelty:

1. by being kept in artificial environments
2. by being physically tortured or abused
3. by being starved to death
4. by being forced to perform for the visitors

2. Which of the following best states the author's purpose in the passage?

1. Putting endangered species of animals in zoos is the best way of protecting and saving them.
2. We can show our concern for animals better by supporting protected spaces for them in the natural environment.
3. If animals were not kept in zoos, children would not be able to see and know about them at all.

4. One of the main reasons for which big predators have evolved is hunting.

3. 'Burrowing' animals:

1. are solitary animals
2. dig the earth for food and shelter
3. chase and hunt other animals
4. are intelligent and curious

4. According to the passage, we visit zoos _____.

1. to watch the frustration of animals in cages
2. to see how animals behave in zoos
3. to spend a day out for fun and excitement
4. to see the animals in cages

5. The word 'predators' (in paragraph 3) means:

1. animals which are starving in zoos
2. animals which are kept in their natural habitat
3. animals which kill others for food
4. animals which are killed for food

56. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

"The two great empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu have been engaged in a most obstinate war for six-and-thirty moons past. It began upon the following occasion. It is allowed on all hands that the primitive way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers. Whereupon the emperor his father published an edict, commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the smaller end of their eggs. The people so highly resented this law, that our histories tell us, there have been six rebellions raised on that account; wherein one

Passage



emperor lost his life, and another his crown. These civil commotions were constantly fomented by the monarchs of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death, rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end. Many hundred large volumes have been published upon this controversy: but the books of the Big-endians have been long forbidden, and the whole party rendered incapable by law of holding employments. During the course of these troubles, the emperors of Blefusca did frequently expostulate by their ambassadors, accusing us of making a schism in religion, by offending against a fundamental doctrine of

our great prophet Lustrog. This, however, is thought to be a mere strain upon the text; for the words are these: 'that all true believers break their eggs at the convenient end.' And which is the convenient end, seems, in my humble opinion to be left to every man's conscience, or at least in the power of the chief magistrate to determine. Now, the Big-endian exiles have found so much credit in the emperor of Blefuscu's court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their party here at home, that a bloody war has been carried on between the two empires for six-and-thirty moons, with various success; during which time we have lost forty capital ships, and a much greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers; and the damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours. However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet, and are just preparing to make a descent upon us; and his imperial majesty, placing great confidence in your valour and strength, has commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you." Thus spoke the Principal Secretary.

I desired the secretary to present my humble duty to the emperor; and to let him know that I thought it

would not become me, who was a foreigner, to interfere with parties; but I was ready, with the hazard of my life, to defend his person and state against all invaders.

1. What was the primitive way of eating eggs in Lilliput?

1. Eating it whole
2. Breaking at the larger end
3. Breaking at the smaller end
4. Breaking in the middle

2. What was the result of the edict published by the emperor of Lilliput's great grandfather?

1. People abandoned Lilliput and left for Blefuscu
2. People readily agreed to follow his command
3. People attacked the emperor and overthrew him
4. People rebelled against the new law

3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

1. The doctrine of Prophet Lustrog mentions the 'convenient end' of the eggs.
2. The Big-endians found refuge at Blefuscu.
3. The narrator refuses to defend the emperor against the invaders.
4. The two empires had been at war for thirty-six moons

4. What inference can be drawn from the narrative?

1. Wars may be waged over very trivial issues.
2. It is important to follow rules.
3. A peaceful solution to the problem is possible.
4. One should remain loyal to the monarch.

Passage



5. The empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu are:

1. ruled by one emperor
2. ready to compromise with each other
3. hostile towards each other
4. cordial and friendly neighbours

57. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Greek religious traditions encompassed a large pantheon of gods, complex mythologies, rituals and cult practices. Greece was a polytheistic society, and looked to its gods and mythology to explain natural mysteries as well as current events. Religious festivals and ceremonies were held throughout the year, and animal sacrifice and votive offerings were popular ways to appease and worship the gods. Religious life, rituals and practices were one of the unifying aspects of Greece across regions and poleis (cities, or city-states, such as Athens and Sparta). Greek gods were immortal beings who possessed human-like qualities and were represented as completely human in visual art. They were moral and immoral, petty and just, and often vain. The gods were invoked to intervene and assist in all matters large, small, private and public.

City-states claimed individual gods and goddesses as their patrons. Temples and sanctuaries to the gods were built in every city. Many cities became cult sites due to their connection with a god or goddess and specific myths. For instance, the city of Delphi was known for its oracle and sanctuary of Apollo, because Apollo was believed to have killed a dragon that inhabited Delphi.

The history of the Greek pantheon begins with the primordial deities Gaia (Mother Earth) and Uranus (Father Sky), who were the parents of the first of twelve giants known as Titans. Among these Titans were six males and six females. The males were

named Oceanus, Hyperion, Coeus, Crius, Iapetus, and Kronos. The females were named Themis, Mnemosyne, Tethys, Theia, Phoebe, and Rhea. Kronos eventually overthrew Uranus and ruled during a mythological Golden Age. Over time, he and Rhea had twelve children who would become the Olympian gods. However, Kronos heard a prophecy that his son would overthrow him, as he did to Uranus. In an effort to avert fate, he ordered Rhea to allow him to devour each of the children upon their birth. Best known among the pantheon are the twelve Olympian gods and goddesses who resided on Mt. Olympus in northern Greece. Zeus, the youngest son of Rhea and Kronos, was hidden from his father, instead of being swallowed. Once he became a man, he challenged his father's rule, forcing Kronos to regurgitate the rest of his swallowed children. These children were Zeus's siblings, and together they overthrew Kronos, making Zeus the father of gods and men.

1. Kronos devoured his children at birth because:

1. he was a titan who hated children
2. it was a cult practice to please the gods
3. his son was predicted to overthrow him
4. he did not have faith in his wife

2. The twelve Olympian Gods and Goddesses were the children of:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gaia and Uranus | 2. Kronos and Rhea |
| 3. Zeus and Phoebe | 4. Hyperion and Theia |

3. How did Zeus bring back his siblings?

1. by making Kronos vomit the swallowed children
2. by worshipping the sanctuary of Apollo
3. by reviving them with an elixir
4. by challenging and slaying Crius

Passage



4. Which of the following statements about Greek Gods is NOT true?

1. Some of them were immoral, petty and vain.
2. Greek Gods were mortals.
3. They possessed human qualities.
4. They were invoked to aid in all matters.

5. Animal sacrifices were made to Gods to:

1. pacify and worship them
2. understand nature's mysteries
3. know about future events
4. enrage and challenge them

58. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

Fishing traps, baskets, cradles, bridges, rainproof hats and umbrellas, mats, musical instruments, water pipes—Indians have always used the bamboo in numerous ways. It is used for house construction, fencing and in the making of bullock carts. Low-cost domestic furniture and a vast range of domestic utility items made of bamboo can be easily seen in any of our bazaars. But we do not easily notice the countless little ways this modest material comes to be used by rural people. One can see it being used in the blacksmith's bellows, or as bamboo pins in carpentry joints or in the fabrication of toys in village markets. But to the British foresters the multidimensional role that "the forest weed" played in the local Indian environment was of no account, as it did not figure in forest revenues. Bamboo also interfered with the growing of teak, an essential part of their colonial forest policy. It was only in the 1920s that the British realised that by mincing bamboo into millimetre shreds, cooking it in chemicals, pulping and flattening it, they could produce sheets of paper. This would bring the British increased forest revenue and 'development' (as defined by them) to the so-

called backward regions of India. However, they chose to ignore the consequences this activity would have on the health of the forest. So while bamboo was sold at high prices to basket weavers, it was heavily subsidised for the paper industry. Even after Independence, supplying bamboo at extremely low prices to Indian paper mills became a 'patriotic' duty of the government, and bamboo supplies were assured for decades at unchanged prices. The disaster that this would cause to the forests, and to the craftsman, still remained unforeseen.

Colonialism affected forests all across India and marginalised their inhabitants and the traditional occupations they practised. As late as the 1970s, the World Bank proposed that 4,600 hectares of natural Sal forest should be replaced by tropical pine to provide pulp for the paper industry. It was only after protests by local environmentalists that the project was stopped. Colonialism was therefore not only about repression, it was also a story of displacement, impoverishment and ecological crisis.

1. What does the 'forest weed' refer to?

1. Pine
2. Bamboo
3. Teak
4. Sal

2. The varied uses of bamboo were disregarded by the British till the 1920s because:

1. they did not use bamboo products at all
2. it was used in the backward regions only
3. the bamboo products were cheaply available
4. it did not increase the forest revenue

3. What was considered to be a patriotic duty of the government after independence?

1. Supplying bamboo at low prices to paper mills
2. Replacing Sal forests by tropical pines
3. Handling the ecological crisis in India
4. Preventing the displacement of foresters

Passage



4. Which of these is NOT a step in the production of paper?

- 1. Mincing
- 2. Weaving
- 3. Flattening
- 4. Pulping

5. Bamboo is referred to as 'modest material' because:

- 1. the British believed it was worthless
- 2. it can be easily shredded and reduced to a pulp
- 3. it is available in abundance in India
- 4. it is inexpensive and not highly acclaimed

59. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

Early written symbols were based on pictographs (pictures which resemble what they signify) and ideograms (symbols which represent ideas). Ancient Sumerian, Egyptian, and Chinese civilizations began to adapt such symbols to represent concepts, developing them into logographic writing systems. Pictographs are still in use as the main medium of written communication in some non-literate cultures in Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. Pictographs are often used as simple, pictorial, representational symbols by most contemporary cultures.

Pictographs can be considered an art form, or can be considered a written language and are designated as such in Pre-Columbian art, Native American art, Ancient Mesopotamia and Painting in the Americas before Colonization. One example of many is the Rock art of the Chumash people, part of the Native American history of California.

An early modern example of the extensive use of pictographs may be seen in the map in the London suburban timetables of the London and North Eastern Railway, 1936-1947, designed by George Dow, in which a variety of pictographs was used to indicate facilities available near each station.

Pictographs remain in common use today, serving as pictorial, representational signs, instructions, or statistical diagrams. Because of their graphical nature and fairly realistic style, they are widely used to indicate public toilets, or places such as airports and train stations. Because they are a concise way to communicate a concept to people who speak many different languages, pictograms have also been used extensively at the Olympics since 1964 Summer Olympics, and are redesigned for each set of games.

Pictographs can often transcend languages in that they can communicate to speakers of a number of tongues and language families equally effectively, even if the languages and cultures are completely different. This is why road signs and similar pictographic material are often applied as global standards expected to be understood by nearly all.

A standard set of pictographs was defined in the international standard ISO 7001: Public Information Symbols. Other common sets of pictographs are the laundry symbols used on clothing tags and the chemical hazard symbols as standardised by the GHS system.

Pictograms have been popularised in use on the web and in software, better known as 'icons' displayed on a computer screen in order to help users navigate a computer system or mobile device.

1. Early civilisations used symbols to represent:

- 1. art
- 2. facilities
- 3. culture
- 4. concepts

2. What is the passage mainly about?

- 1. Use of pictographs in ancient and modern times
- 2. The origin of pictographs
- 3. Limitations of pictographs
- 4. Pictographs as an art form

Passage



3. Which of the following is an early example of use of pictographs in modern times?

1. London railway timetable
2. Chemical hazard symbols
3. Logographic writing system
4. Icons on a computer screen

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

1. Ideograms are symbols which represent ideas.
2. George Dow used pictographs to represent facilities near each train station.
3. Rock art of Chumash people is part of Mesopotamian history.
4. Pictographs are widely used to depict road

5. Pictographs are used in Olympic games because:

1. they can transcend languages and convey information effectively
2. they can help to navigate computer systems
3. they are the main medium of written communication
4. they can be redesigned for each set of games

60. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

During the decade after liberalisation floriculture industries took giant steps in the export arena. This era has seen a dynamic shift from sustenance production to commercial production. The area under floriculture production in India is around 249 thousand hectares with a production of 1659 thousand tonnes loose flowers and 484 thousand tonnes cut flowers. Floriculture is now commercially cultivated in several states with Tamil Nadu (20%), Karnataka (13.5%) West Bengal (12.2%) having gone

ahead of other producing states like Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Haryana, Assam and Chhattisgarh.

Government of India has identified floriculture as a sunrise industry and accorded it 100% export oriented status. Owing to steady increase in the demand of flowers, floriculture has become one of the important commercial trades in agriculture. Hence commercial floriculture has emerged as hi-tech activity-taking place under controlled climatic conditions inside greenhouse. Floriculture in India, is being viewed as a high growth industry. Commercial floriculture is becoming important from the export angle. The liberalisation of industrial and trade policies paved the way for development of export-oriented production of cut flowers.

The new seed policy had already made it feasible to import planting material of international varieties. It has been found that commercial floriculture has higher potential per unit area than most of the field crops and is therefore a lucrative business. Indian floriculture industry has been shifting from traditional flowers to cut flowers for export purposes. The liberalised economy has given an impetus to the Indian entrepreneurs for establishing export oriented floriculture units under controlled climatic conditions. Indian floriculture industry comprises of flowers such as Rose, Tuberose, Glads, Anthurium, Carnations, Marigold etc.

India's total export of floriculture was ₹571.38 crores/\$81.94 million in 2018-19. The major importing countries were United States, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany and United Arab Emirates. There are more than 300 export-oriented units in India. More than 50% of the floriculture units are based in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. With the technical collaborations from foreign companies, the Indian floriculture industry is poised to increase its share in world trade.

Passage



1. Which three states are the major cultivators of floriculture products?

1. West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
2. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal
3. Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh
4. Tamil Nadu, Assam and Chhattisgarh

2. The main theme of the passage is:

1. commercialisation of floriculture
2. the rise of floriculture industry in India
3. the Government's policies regarding floriculture
4. the export of flowers from India

3. The area under floriculture production in India is about:

1. 484 thousand hectares
2. 249 thousand hectares
3. 571 thousand hectares
4. 1659 thousand hectares

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

1. More than 50% of the floriculture units are based in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
2. Floriculture has been accorded a 100% export status by the Government.
3. India's total export of floriculture was \$571.38 million in 2018-19.
4. Floriculture has been identified as a sunrise industry by the Government of India.

5. What gave a major fillip to the export of Indian floriculture products?

1. The new policy to ease the import of seeds of international varieties

2. The liberalisation of industrial and trade policies by the government

3. The demand from many countries like the US, the UK, and UAE.

4. The use of technology in cultivating flowers inside greenhouses.

61. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The term 'dietary fibres' refers collectively to indigestible carbohydrates present in plant foods. The importance of these dietary fibres came into the picture when it was observed that the people taking a diet rich in these fibres had low incidence of coronary heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dental caries and gall stones. The foodstuffs rich in these dietary fibres are cereals and grains, legumes, fruits with seeds, citrus fruits, carrots, cabbage, green leafy vegetables, apples, melons, peaches, pears etc.

These dietary fibres are not digested by the enzymes of the stomach and the small intestine. They have the property of holding water and because of it, these get swollen and behave like a sponge as these pass through the gastrointestinal tract. The fibres add bulk to the diet and increase transit time in the gut and decrease the time of release of ingested food in the colon.

These fibres hold water so the stools are soft, bulky and readily eliminated. In recent years, it has been considered essential to have some amount of fibres in the diet. Their beneficial effects lie in preventing heart disease and decreasing cholesterol level. The fibres like gum and pectin are reported to decrease post prandial (after meals) glucose level in blood. They are also recommended for the management of certain types of diabetes.

The fibres increase motility of the small intestine and the colon and so there is less time for exposure of the

Passage



mucosa to harmful toxic substances. Therefore, there is a less desire to eat and the energy intake can be maintained within the range of requirement. This phenomenon helps in keeping a check on obesity.

The dietary fibres may have some adverse effects on nutrition by binding some trace metals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and others and therefore preventing their proper absorption. This may pose a possibility of nutritional deficiency especially when diets contain marginal levels of mineral elements. This may put constraints on increasing dietary fibres. It is suggested that an intake of 40 gram dietary fibres per day is desirable.

1. The dietary fibres behave like a sponge because they:

1. can absorb water and swell up
2. prevent the absorption of trace metals
3. increase the motility of the small intestine
4. reduce the craving for food

2. What are dietary fibres?

1. Ingested food in the colon
2. Indigestible carbohydrates in plant foods
3. Enzymes present in the stomach
4. Easily digestible healthy food

3. Which of the following is NOT rich in dietary fibres?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Glucose | 2. Cereals |
| 3. Citrus fruits | 4. Leafy vegetables |

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

1. Dietary fibres help in regulating glucose levels in the body.
2. Dietary fibres help in preventing heart disease.

3. Dietary fibres help in relieving constipation.
4. Dietary fibres help in absorption of trace metals.

5. What is the theme of the passage?

1. Benefits of a balanced diet
2. Sources of dietary fibres
3. Functioning of intestines
4. Importance of dietary fibres

62. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

When Tao Ying rides on the bus alone, quite often she does not bother to buy a ticket. Why should she? Without her, the bus would still be stopping at every stop, a driver and a conductor would still have to be employed, and the same amount of petrol used. Clearly Tao Ying has to be astute. When the bus conductor looked like the responsible type, she would buy a ticket as soon as she got on board. But if he appeared to be casual and careless, she would not dream of paying, considering it a small punishment for him and a little saving for herself.

Today she is with her son Xiao Ye. She follows him onto the bus. As the doors shut her jacket is caught, ballooning up like a tent behind her. She twists this way and that, finally wrenching herself free. 'Mama, tickets!' Xiao Ye says. Children are often more conscious of rituals than adults. Without a ticket in his hand, the ride doesn't count as a proper ride. On the peeling paint of the door somebody has painted the shape of a pale finger. It points at a number: 1.10 am. Between Xiao Ye's round head and the tip of the painted digit setting out the height requirement for a ticket rests the beautiful slender fingers of Tao Ying. 'Xiao Ye, you are not quite tall enough, still one centimeter away,' she tells him softly. 'Mama! I'm tall enough, I'm tall enough!' Xiao Ye shouts at the top of his voice, stamping on the floor as if it were a tin drum. 'You told me the last time I could have a ticket

Passage



the next time, this is the next time. You don't keep your word!' He looks up at his mother angrily. Tao Ying looks down at her son. A ticket costs twenty cents. Twenty cents is not to be scoffed at. It can buy a cucumber, two tomatoes or, at a reduced price, three bunches of radishes or enough spinach to last four days. But Xiao Ye's face is raised up like a half-open blossom, waiting to receive his promise from the sun. She says, 'Two tickets, please.' The fierce conductor has beady eyes. 'This child is one centimeter short of requiring a ticket.'

Xiao Ye shrinks, not just one but several centimeters—the need for a ticket has all of a sudden become interwoven with the pride of a small child. To be able to purchase self-esteem with twenty cents is something that can only happen in childhood and certainly no mother can resist an opportunity to make her son happy. 'I would like to buy two tickets,' she says politely

1. For the child, the ticket was a symbol of:

- 1. self esteem 2. courage 3. freedom 4. determination

2. Why does Tao Ying buy two tickets?

- 1. To spite the conductor 2. To make her son happy 3. To make up for the times when she didn't buy a ticket. 4. To show off her wealth

3. "Xiao Ye shrinks, not just one but several centimeters" – Why?

- 1. He feels humiliated and hurt 2. He is angry with the conductor 3. He feels happy at his achievement 4. He feels proud of his height

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- 1. Tao Ying was travelling with her son. 2. Twenty cents was a sum that mattered to Tao Ying. 3. Tao Ying boarded the bus after her son. 4. Tao Ying actually needed to buy two tickets.

5. Xiao Ye was eager to buy a bus ticket because he:

- 1. had saved money for it 2. wanted to feel like a grown up 3. had grown taller than 1.10 m 4. was very responsible

63. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The methods of embalming, or treating the dead body, that the ancient Egyptians used is called 'mummification'. Using special processes, the Egyptians removed all moisture from the body, leaving only a dried form that would not easily decay. It was important in their religion to preserve the dead body in as life-like a manner as possible.

The mummification process took seventy days. Special priests worked as embalmers, treating and wrapping the body. Beyond knowing the correct rituals and prayers to be performed at various stages, the priests also needed a detailed knowledge of human anatomy. The first step in the process was the removal of all internal parts that might decay rapidly. The brain was removed by carefully inserting special hooked instruments up through the nostrils in order to pull out bits of brain tissue. The embalmers then removed the organs of the abdomen and chest through a cut usually made on the left side of the abdomen. They left only the heart in place, believing it to be the center of a person's being and intelligence. The other organs were preserved

Passage



separately, with the stomach, liver, lungs and intestines placed in special boxes or jars, today called 'canopic jars'. These were buried with the mummy.

The embalmers next removed all moisture from the body. This they did by covering the body with 'natron', a type of salt which has great drying properties, and by placing additional natron packets inside the body. When the body had dried out completely, embalmers removed the internal packets and lightly washed the natron off the body. The result was a very dried-out but recognizable human form. To make the mummy seem even more life-like, sunken areas of the body were filled out with linen and other materials and false eyes were added.

Next the wrapping began. Each mummy needed hundreds of yards of linen. The priests carefully wound the long strips of linen around the body, sometimes even wrapping each finger and toe separately before wrapping the entire hand or foot. In order to protect the dead from mishap in after life, amulets were placed among the wrappings and prayers and magical words written on some of the linen strips. Often the priests placed a mask of the person's face between the layers of head bandages. At last, the priests wrapped the final cloth or shroud in place and secured it with linen strips. The mummy was complete. It was then placed in the tomb along with food, furniture, vessels, perfumes, jewels and other things required in the afterlife.

1. Mummification was done to:

1. study the cause of death
2. preserve dead bodies in a life-like manner
3. perform rituals and prayers
4. test the drying properties of natron

2. What was the initial step in the process of mummification?

1. Placing a face mask between the head bandages
2. Wrapping the body with strips of linen
3. Completely drying the body
4. Removal of the internal parts

3. Why was the knowledge of anatomy important for the priests?

1. To remove internal organs from the body
2. To place natron packets in the body
3. To wrap each part of the body
4. To delay the decay of the body for seventy days

4. Which of the following was NOT buried with the mummies?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Amulets | 2. Canopic jars |
| 3. Perfumes | 4. Embalmers |

5. Hooked instruments were inserted through the nostrils to extract the:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. lungs | 2. brain |
| 3. heart | 4. liver |

64. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Vasco Da Gama was the first European to find an ocean trading route to India. He accomplished what many explorers before him could not do. His discovery of this sea route helped the Portuguese establish a long-lasting colonial empire in Asia and Africa. The new ocean route around Africa allowed Portuguese sailors to avoid the Arab trading hold in the Mediterranean and Middle East. Vasco da Gama opened a new world of riches by opening up an Indian Ocean route. His voyage and explorations helped change the world for Europeans. Vasco da

Passage



Gama's maritime career was during the period when Portugal was searching for a trade route around Africa to India. The Ottoman Empire controlled almost all European trade routes to Asia. This meant they could, and did, charge high prices for ships passing through ports. When Manuel I became King of Portugal in 1495, he continued efforts to open a trade route to India by going around Africa. Although other people were considered for the job, Manuel I finally chose 37-year-old Vasco da Gama for this task. On 8 July 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed from Lisbon with a fleet of four ships and a crew of 170 men. Da Gama commanded the Sao Gabriel. Paulo da Gama – brother to Vasco – commanded the São Rafael, a three mast ship. They sailed past the Canary Islands, and reached the Cape Verde islands and then continued sailing, though storms still delayed them for a while. They rounded the cape of Good Hope on 22 November and anchored at Mossel Bay, South Africa. They began sailing again and continued until they reached the Rio dos Bons Sinais (River of Good Omens). Here they erected a statue in the name of Portugal. They stayed here for a month because much of the crew were sick from scurvy – a disease caused by lack of Vitamin C. Da Gama's fleet eventually began sailing again. Finally, on 20 May 1498 they reached India. They headed for Kappad, near the large city of Calicut. In Calicut, da Gama met with the king. But the king of Calicut was not impressed with da Gama, and the gifts he brought as offering. They spent several months trading in India, and studying their customs. They left India at the end of August.

1. In which month did Vasco da Gama's ship reach the Cape of Good Hope?

- 1. May 2. July 3. November 4. August

2. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- 1. Vasco da Gama was the commander of the ship, Sao Gabriel 2. Scurvy is caused by deficiency of vitamin C. 3. Vasco da Gama impressed the King of Calicut with his gifts. 4. Sao Rafael was a ship with three masts.

3. Who controlled the European trade routes to Asia before 1497?

- 1. Manuel I 2. King of Calicut 3. Ottoman Empire 4. Paulo da Gama

4. From where did Vasco da Gama embark upon his journey?

- 1. Mossel Bay 2. Canary Islands 3. Lisbon 4. Cape of Good Hope

5. Why did Vasco da Gama's crew stay at Rio dos Bons Sinais for a month?

- 1. To erect a statue in the name of Portugal 2. Several crew members were suffering from scurvy. 3. There were severe storms in the area. 4. It was an auspicious place.

65. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it. Then she would fetch my wooden slate which she had already washed and plastered with yellow chalk,

Passage



a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen, tie them all in a bundle and hand it to me. After a breakfast of a thick, stale chapatti with a little butter and sugar spread on it, we went to school. She carried several stale chapattis with her for the village dogs.

My grandmother always went to school with me because the school was attached to the temple. The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chapattis we threw to them. When my parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for us. That was a turning-point in our friendship. Although we shared the same room, my grandmother no longer came to school with me. I used to go to an English school in a motor bus. There were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house. As the years rolled by we saw less of each other. For some time she continued to wake me up and get me ready for school. When I came back she would ask me what the teacher had taught me. I would tell her English words and little things of western science and learning, the law of gravity, Archimedes' Principle, the world being round, etc. This made her unhappy. She could not help me with my lessons. She did not believe in the things they taught at the English school and was distressed that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures.

1. Why did grandmother carry stale chapattis with her?

- 1. To feed the stray dogs 2. To serve as her lunch
3. To feed her grandson
4. To give away to poor people

2. Grandmother sang the morning prayer in a monotonous tone so that:

- 1. her melodious voice echoed in the house
2. her grandson would learn it too
3. her grandson would wake up with the sound
4. her children would return home soon

3. Why did the grandmother accompany her grandson to school every day?

- 1. To keep him safe from stray dogs
2. To read scriptures in the temple while he studied
3. To spend more time with him
4. To ensure he wouldn't run away to play in the streets

4. What kind of woman was the grandmother?

- 1. Illiterate 2. Modern
3. Self-centred 4. Religious

5. What does the narrator refer to as the 'turning point'?

- 1. Grandmother feeding sparrows
2. Going to an English school
3. Learning western science
4. He and his grandmother shifting to the city

66. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it

A book by the Indian ambassador in the Netherlands highlights the historical and current exchanges that define the relationship between the two countries. The first book in which Malayalam appears in print is the 'Hortus Malabaricus' (Garden of Malabar), a 12-volume treatise, written in Latin and published in Amsterdam from 1678 to 1693. Compiled over a period of 30 years, under directions from Hendrik van

Passage



Rheede, a naturalist and colonial administrator, who was at the time the governor of Dutch Malabar, the Hortus Malabaricus gives a comprehensive account of the flora of the Malabar region, along with their properties and detailed sketches. Malayalam appears in this multilingual book, along with other languages that were common currency at the time, including Arabic and Konkani.

The Hortus Malabaricus was an important document of its time, as Venu Rajamony writes in his new book 'India and the Netherlands: Past, Present and Future', "the product of a multinational and multicultural team of botanical experts." Yet, it remained lost to the public until a botany scholar from Calicut, KS Manilal, learned Latin and translated it first into English in 2003 and into Malayalam in 2008. Highlighting such instances of the Indo-Dutch artistic and cultural exchange through the last 400 years was the prime reason why Rajamony, who has been the Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, thought of writing this book. The book was released on 30 September 2019.

The connection between India and the Netherlands begins with the Dutch Golden Age, when the latter was a flourishing centre for commercial and artistic endeavours. Following Spain, Portugal and Great Britain, it also emerged as one of the great maritime nations of the world, establishing a far-flung empire thanks to the ventures of the Dutch East India Company. Over the course of his research for the book, Rajamony says, one of the things that surprised him was how taken the great Dutch master Rembrandt was with Indian miniature paintings, collecting them and even making drawings inspired by them. "I was pleasantly surprised to discover this as Rembrandt is considered an absolute master, who would only have made originals. It is very rare that a master like him would copy other artworks," says Rajamony. According to him, this fact is

indicative of the high esteem in which Indian art was held in Europe.

1. Which statement is NOT true about 'Hortus Malabaricus'?

1. It is a 12-volume treatise, written in Latin.
2. Many languages like Malayalam, Konkani and Arabic appear in the book.
3. It gives a comprehensive account of the life in the Malabar region.
4. It was a product of a multinational and multicultural team of botanical experts.

2. Which of the following about Rembrandt greatly surprised Rajamony and also made him happy?

1. That Rembrandt, considered as the master, copied the Indian miniature paintings
2. That Rembrandt was a great Dutch artist
3. That Rembrandt had inspired the Indian miniature paintings
4. That Rembrandt collected Indian miniature paintings

3. What inspired Rajamony to write his new book 'India and the Netherlands: Past, Present and Future'?

1. The rule of the Dutch East India Company over Malabar in the 17th century.
2. His being the ambassador of India to the Netherlands.
3. Instances of the Indo-Dutch artistic and cultural exchange through the last 400 years.
4. The fact that 'Hortus Malabaricus' remained lost to the world for almost three centuries.

4. The passage is mainly about:

1. the treatise 'Hortus Malabaricus' published in the Netherlands

Passage



- 2. the book written by the Indian ambassador
- 3. the historical relationship between India and the Netherlands
- 4. Rajamony, the Indian ambassador to the Netherlands
- 5. "it also emerged as one of the great maritime nations of the world." Here the word 'it' refers to:
 - 1. Spain 2. Portugal 3. The Netherlands 4. India

67. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

Love of power is, perhaps, an even stronger motive than fear in enticing nations to pursue irrational policies. Although individual boastfulness is considered to be bad manners, national boastfulness is admired at any rate, by the compatriots of those who practise it. Throughout history, great nations have been led to disaster by unwillingness to admit that their power had limits. World conquest has been a will-o'-the-wisp by which one nation after another has been led to its downfall. Hitler's Germany is the most recent example. Going backwards in time, we find many other examples, of which Napoleon, Genghis Khan, and Attila are the most noteworthy. When Khrushchev threatens to obliterate the West, I am reminded of past examples of a similar folly.

To spread ruin, misery and death throughout one's own country as well as that of the enemy is the act of madmen. If East and West could cease their enmity, they could devote their scientific skill to their own welfare, to living without the burden of fear that only their own folly has caused. For it is in the hearts of men that the evil lies. The trouble lies in the minds often, and it is in enlightening the minds of men that the cure must be sought.

There are those who say: 'War is part of human nature, and human nature cannot be changed. If war

means the end of man, we must sigh and submit.' This is always said by those whose sigh is hypocritical. It is undeniable that there are men and nations to whom violence is attractive, but it is not the case that anything in human nature makes it impossible to restrain such men and nations. Individuals who have a taste for homicide are restrained by the criminal law, and most of us do not find life intolerable because we are not allowed to commit murders. The same is true of nations. Sweden has never been at war since 1814. None of the Swedes that I have known has shown any sign of suffering from thwarted instinct for lack of war. Political contests in a civilized country often raise just the kind of issues that would lead to war if they were between different nations. Not long ago, private disputes were often settled by duels, and those who upheld duelling maintained that its abolition would be contrary to human nature. They forgot, as present upholders of war forget, that what is called 'human nature' is, in the main, the result of custom and tradition and education, and, in civilized men, only a very tiny fraction is due to primitive instinct. If the world could live for a few generations without war, war would come to seem as absurd as duelling has come to seem to us.

1. Match the words with their closest meanings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| a. obliterate | 1. fraudulent |
| b. entice | 2. eradicate |
| c. hypocritical | 3. lure |
| 1. a-3, b-2, c-1 | 2. a-1, b-3, c-2 |
| 3. a-2, b-1, c-3 | 4. a-2, b-3, c-1 |

2. According to the passage, war would seem absurd to us if:

- 1. we have political contests among nations
- 2. we could live without fighting wars for a few years

Passage



- 3. we impose limitations on the people through law
- 4. we settle our disputes by organising duels

3. In this passage the author:

- 1. explains that by nature man is fond of war
- 2. doesn't think that there is any element in human nature that cannot be curbed
- 3. suggests that man's instinct for fighting can find expression in duels
- 4. thinks that man's nature is unchangeable

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. Homicidal tendencies of people can be restrained by criminal laws.
- 2. If nations could forget their enmity they could live in peace without fear.
- 3. As far as war is concerned, the trouble lies in the minds of men.
- 4. War cannot be eradicated from the world because it is in the human nature.

5. Many countries have been led to their downfall because their leaders:

- 1. have not accepted that their powers have limits
- 2. have not been very capable
- 3. have boasted of their scientific skills
- 4. have under-estimated their power

68. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

Panchen Lama was just six years old when he was allegedly abducted by the Chinese government on 17 May 1995, along with his family members, after he was recognised by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama. On the 25th

anniversary of his disappearance, the Tibetan government-in-exile on Sunday demanded China to release the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, considered to be a reincarnation of Bodhisattva Amitabha.

In a statement issued here, the President of the exiled government, Lobsang Sangay, said China's abduction of the Panchen Lama and forcible denial of his religious identity and the right to practice in his monastery is not only a violation of religious freedom but also a gross violation of human rights. After orchestrating the disappearance of the 11th Panchen Lama, Sangay alleged that China, a self-declared atheist government and infamous for its persecution of religious groups, placed a young boy, Gyaltzen Norbu, as their own 11th Panchen Lama.

"This politically-motivated action failed, however, to displace the position of the true Panchen Lama from the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. For Tibetans and Buddhists around the world, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima will always be the true Panchen Lama," he added.

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the 11th Panchen Lama's disappearance, said Sangay, adding that 25 years is a significant time in an individual's life. He said the communist government must honour its claim of ethnic harmony in China by fulfilling the aspirations of the Tibetan people. "It must right the wrong and release the 11th Panchen Lama along with his family, Chadrel Rinpoche, and all Tibetans unjustly imprisoned," he said while appealing to the international community to make a concerted effort to press China to release Nyima and resolve the critical human rights situation in Tibet.

1. What is the real name of the Panchen Lama imprisoned by China?

- 1. Gedhun Choekyi Nyima
- 2. Bodhisattva Amitabha
- 3. Gyaltzen Norbu
- 4. Lobsang Sangay

Passage



2. After reading this passage, it can be inferred that it is:

1. an appeal
2. a government statement
3. an article
4. a news item

3. "This politically-motivated action failed." Which action is being referred to here?

1. Persecution of religious groups by the Chinese government
2. Placing of Gyaltzen Norbu as the 11th Panchen Lama by China
3. Abduction of Panchen Lama along with his family
4. Imprisonment of Chadrel Rinpoche and other Tibetans

4. Select the option which is NOT true.

The abduction of Panchen Lama and his family by China is an act of:

1. establishing ethnic harmony
2. persecution of a religious group
3. violation of religious freedom of Tibetans
4. gross violation of human rights

5. What is the demand of the Tibetan Government-in-exile?

1. China should release the 11th Panchen Lama along with his family.
2. China should place Gyaltzen Norbu as the 11th Panchen Lama.
3. China should celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 11th Panchen Lama's disappearance.

4. China should recognise Panchen Lama as the reincarnation of Bodhisattva.

69. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

First, thousands of flamingos coloured the Talawe wetlands near NRI Complex in Navi Mumbai pink during the lockdown, their numbers bolstered by the sheer lack of human activity. Now, the water in part of the wetland itself has turned pink, probably due to an explosive blooming of red algae that thrives in saline water, especially as the summer picks up and the wetland loses water.

The deep pink water, located towards the south-eastern end of the wetland, was spotted on 14 May 2020. The pink water was not there till late last week. The bloom has been identified as a rare and first-of-its-kind occurrence for Mumbai Metropolitan Region by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) that plans to take samples of the water for study. However, a local resident, Seema Tania from NRI Complex, Seawoods, said she had spotted the pink wash across a much larger area at the same creek in 2016. "Almost 500-600m patch of the creek turned bright pink and we thought chemicals had been dumped in the creek," she said. BNHS and independent microbiologists presume that the colour is from microscopic algae.

"Owing to high salinity in the area, it looks like an algal bloom. Our researchers have never witnessed something like this along Mumbai's creeks," said Deepak Apte, director, BNHS. "Around the world, such a phenomena has been observed regularly with red algae but it has to be investigated how it has appeared along the Mumbai creek." Flamingos are known to feed on this algae, crustaceans, shrimp, and aquatic plants, which gives them the pink colour, said Apte. Dr P Sathiyaselvam, assistant director (wetland conservation), BNHS said, "This is clearly an algal bloom. We have observed the same at the

Passage



northern portion of Chilika Lake (in Odisha) during early winter months over the years, and also towards the northern end of wetlands in Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.” “This is a natural phenomenon. Vigorous growth of algae or bacteria having beta-carotene gives this type of characteristic colouration to the water. It is also related to increased evaporation, salinity, and the current hot and humid weather conditions,” said Rahul Khot, assistant director (in-charge of the flamingo monitoring program).

Ornithologist, naturalist and writer Sunjoy Monga said a similar discolouration of water with a pink hue was witnessed at a flamingo habitat in Porbandar in May 2007. “This happened at the edges of the creek cramped with flamingos with high salinity displaying a pinkish maroon wash to it.” A similar example of what has been observed in Navi Mumbai was recently witnessed across a massive stretch at the Edgars Creek in Melbourne, Australia, that started on 10 May and intensified subsequently. The source of the pink water is being investigated, the Epoch Times reported. Other examples of changing water colour to pink across a much larger area has been observed at Cameron Falls in Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada and the Dead Sea, a salt lake between Israel and Jordan, to name a few.

1. Which of the following individuals thinks that the presence of beta-carotene in the algae gives the water its pink colour?

- 1. Dr. P Sathiyaselvam
- 2. Deepak Apte
- 3. Sunjoy Monga
- 4. Rahul Khot

2. The explanation for the pink water, as given by most scientists, is that it is due to:

- 1. the chemicals dumped in the creek
- 2. highly humid and hot weather conditions
- 3. an explosion of red algae blooming in the saline water

- 4. shrimps, crustaceans and some aquatic plants

3. The main theme of the passage is:

- 1. where the phenomenon of pink water occurs in the world
- 2. why the water in some parts of Mumbai wetland has turned pink
- 3. how the flamingos get their pink colour
- 4. what the flamingos feed on

4. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. The phenomenon of pink water has been seen in Chilika lake, Odisha and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu also.
- 2. Similar phenomenon was recently witnessed across a massive stretch at the Edgars Creek in Melbourne, Australia.
- 3. Similar discolouration of water with a pink hue was witnessed at a flamingo habitat in Porbandar in May 2007.
- 4. The phenomenon of pink water has occurred in Mumbai wetland for the first time.

5. After reading the passage, it can be inferred that the:

- 1. phenomenon of algal bloom is unique to Mumbai
- 2. water in Talawe wetland turned pink because of flamingos
- 3. scientists are unaware of the occurrence of red algae bloom
- 4. source of pink water at Edgar’s creek has not yet been determined

Passage



70. Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

Western MP has received 1,335.4 millimetres of average rainfall from June 1 to September 25, 58% more than the region's historical normal of 845.3 mm for this period. However, the real story lies in the month-wise figures. In June, the opening month of the southwest monsoon season, the rains were actually 25.6% below the long-period average. In July, they were 31.2% above average. That surplus rose to 63.6% in August, while a whopping 158% more, so far in September.

The monsoon has taken its toll mainly on soyabean. According to the Union agriculture ministry's data, a total area of 113.449 lakh hectares (lh) has been planted under this leguminous oilseed in the current kharif season, with the bulk of it accounted for by MP (55.16 lh), Maharashtra (39.595 lh) and Rajasthan (10.608 lh). Within MP, the main soyabeangrowing districts are Ujjain, Dewas, Indore, Dhar, Ratlam, Mandsaur, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Sehore and Vidisha. The crop in low-lying areas is the one that has been worst affected.

"Farmers who had sown early-maturity (80-90 days duration) varieties such as JS 9560 and JS 2034 just after mid-June will take the biggest hit. Their crop would already have matured; the longer it remains in the field, the more the chances of the grain rotting. Also, these farmers will not be able to save this grain for using as seed next year," admits V S Bhatia, director of the Indian Institute of Soyabean Research at Indore. On the other hand, longer-duration varieties maturing in 95-105 days, like JS 20-69, NRC 86 and JS 97-52, are unlikely to suffer major yield loss, as their grain is not fully ripe yet for harvesting. Moreover, since the rains were poor in June, much of sowing anyway took place in July, thereby further reducing the likelihood of damage. "The vegetative growth and pod formation has been very good. As of now, the overall loss may be 10-15% and the areas

where the crop is still good should compensate for those badly impacted," adds Bhatia.

1. Which of the following is a short-duration variety of soyabean maturing in 80-90 days?

1. JS 97-52 2. NRC 86 3. JS 9560 4. JS 20-69

2. In which month, according to the passage, has the rainfall been the maximum?

1. June 2. July 3. August 4. September

3. This passage is mainly about:

1. the rainfall from June to September in MP
2. the varieties of soyabean grown in MP
3. the impact of rains on the soyabean crop in MP
4. the growth of soyabean in MP

4. Why would the farmers who sowed their crop in June be the worst hit?

1. Their crop would already be mature and could rot in the rain.
2. They sowed their crop in low lying areas.
3. When they sowed their crop there wasn't enough rain.
4. They had sowed a late maturing variety of soyabean.

5. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?

1. The longer-duration variety of soyabean will not suffer much due to this excessive rain.
2. The rainfall in June was poor in MP.
3. In July, the rainfall was 63.6% above average.
4. The crops in low-lying areas were worst affected by rains.

Passage



71. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

On May 2, 2018, severe dust storms and thunderstorms hit parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and other adjoining regions. Explaining the reasons behind such severe weather system, M. Mohapatra, senior scientist with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that dust storms and thunderstorms are a result of nearly similar weather conditions, like intense heat.

Areas that have moisture in the air experience thunderstorms while those which don't have moisture experience dust storms. "All such conditions were being fulfilled on that day. The region had moist easterly winds coming from the Bay of Bengal and there was western disturbance system too. All this together triggered the events on May 2," he added.

In simple terms, dust storm can be explained as a phenomenon when strong winds carry dust over an extensive area. As far as the timing of their occurrence is concerned, Mohapatra stated that there is no deviation in time of occurrence of a dust storm and thunderstorm activity as they usually peak in the pre-monsoon period.

These events happen between March and May only. In the pre-monsoon period temperatures are very high, around 44-45 degree Celsius and lead to such activities. Even as dust storms and thunderstorms are a common feature every year there has been no focused work on studying the trends related to it. "In the coming years there could be more instances of intense thunderstorms and sand storms but they have to be studied in detail looking at the data of over 30-40 years to notice a trend. Work has been more or less confined to cyclones and monsoon systems but not much on dust storms or thunderstorms. It needs study," admitted Mohapatra.

The extent of damage caused by thunderstorm activity in India can be gauged from the data of India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). As per the NCRB data, compared to other natural disasters like cyclone, floods or heat waves, lightning kills more people in India.

For instance, at least 25 percent of the 10,510 accidental deaths attributable to forces of nature in 2015 were due to lightning. The number of deaths due to lightning has constantly remained over 2,000 every year since 2005.

1. The passage is mainly about:

1. a dust storm in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
2. dust storms and thunderstorms
3. a thunderstorm in Rajasthan
4. the damage caused by thunderstorms

2. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

1. The western disturbances cause dust storms in Rajasthan and nearby regions.
2. Both, dust storms and thunderstorms occur due to similar weather conditions like intense heat.
3. Thunderstorms occur where the air is dry.
4. Cyclones and monsoon systems have been studied more than dust storms and thunderstorms.

3. Among the natural disasters, which is the highest killer in India?

1. Heat waves
2. Lightning
3. Cyclones
4. Floods

4. When do dust storms and thunderstorms generally occur?

1. In the pre-monsoon period
2. After the rains
3. During monsoon
4. During winters

Passage



5. A dust storm mainly occurs due to:

- 1. moisture in the air
- 2. easterly winds
- 3. intense heat
- 4. extreme cold

72. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Ghana was the first true African state. The reason why we are saying this is that most African states lived in tribal villages but Ghana was the center of gold trade. This gold trade opened new possibilities for the Ghanaians. The gold trade roots back to the 4th century, when African Soninke tribes were under the rule of the Maga, a Berber clan originating from Morocco. This clan has mastered trans-Saharan camel travel. They were known for trading salt for gold from the Soninke.

When the Arabs invaded North Africa, there was an upsurge in the trade in gold. Ghana became rich and soon after, the Soninke ousted the Maga and built their own nation under Kaya Magan Cisse, who became the Soninke king around 790. Ghana's ancient capital, Koumbi Salah, was the city where Africans and Berbers met and traded. Arab traders in the 9th century described Ghana as 'the land of gold.' The gold came from Asante and Senegal, to the south and west. The trade routes led north and east to Morocco, Libya and Aksum and so on to Europe and Asia.

Ghana had reached its peak in the 10th century. This was the country which controlled both the gold and salt trades. Other trading goods included woollen clothes, luxury items, leather goods and slaves. Traders transported goods hundreds of kilometres across the Sahara desert with camel caravans.

1. Maga, a Berber clan originated from:

- 1. Morocco
- 2. Senegal
- 3. Aksum
- 4. Libya

2. Select the most appropriate title for the passage.

- 1. Ghana – land of gold
- 2. Ghana – land of tribes
- 3. Ghana – land of Berbers
- 4. Ghana – land of trade.

3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Controlled

- 1. Profuse
- 2. Promise
- 3. Practicality
- 4. Agitated

4. Select the one-word substitute from the passage for the given group of words.

Rapid or sudden rise

- 1. Caravans
- 2. Ousted
- 3. Upsurge
- 4. Ancient

5. _____ and _____ were the foundation of Ghana's trade in ancient times.

- 1. Woollen clothes; luxurious items
- 2. Leather goods; slaves
- 3. Gold; salt
- 4. Camel; caravans

73. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

India's favourable demographic trends, which have increased the workforce's percentage of the overall population, have paved the way for a significant middle-class expansion. A big population bulge emerging from absolute poverty and set to reach the middle class would generate new dynamics. In India, over 55 per cent of the population is predicted to reach the middle class. In reality, because India's demographics are significantly younger than China and the United States, the country's middle class

Passage



might be the world's largest (in terms of population) by 2025.

It is no exaggeration to argue that future growth will be reliant on the increasing middle class, and that the middle class's development will be reliant on growth. Growth has been fuelled by both private consumption and saving, both of which are fuelled by the middle class. India's private consumption accounts for over 60% of the country's GDP, while private consumption growth has contributed for 70% of the country's growth since 2000.

Despite the fact that China's middle class is now greater than India's, private spending in the former accounts for a lesser share of growth. In contrast to the United States, where domestic savings are dropping and the country borrows excess funds from outside to invest and expand, India's domestic savings and investments are increasing and funding investments.

The emergence of the middle class is anticipated to coincide with a transition away from large-scale informality, which now characterises much of the services and industrial sectors, and toward more formal, wage-earning, and medium-scale firms. Technological advancements will spread at a faster rate. Cities will expand as job possibilities concentrate on them. If there is enough movement across states and from rural to urban regions, the population increase will be more evenly distributed.

1. Select the most suitable title for the given passage.

- 1. Middle Class and Economic Growth
2. Dropping Domestic Savings in the USA
3. Favourable Demographic Trends in India
4. Rise of the Middle Class in India

2. Which of the following options has contributed to the expansion of the middle class?

- 1. Evenly distributed economic opportunities
2. Increased private consumption
3. Increased workforce percentage
4. Increased foreign investment

3. Which of the following statements in the light of the given passage is FALSE?

- 1. Future economic growth will be reliant on middle class and middle class's development will be dependent on economic growth.
2. China's middle class is currently smaller than India's middle class.
3. India's middle class will be significantly larger and younger than other countries, like China.
4. A huge population is expected to escape poverty and reach the middle class.

4. What is the tone of the passage?

- 1. Critical 2. Objective
3. Subjective 4. Didactic

5. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

- Coincide
1. Differ 2. Agree
3. Confuse 4. Detest

74. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognise the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence

Passage



in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognise your individual limit. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam or on comparing mark sheets and finding that their friend has scored better.

Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psycho-social stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life.

Stress has a different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails in the examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.

Such signs appear in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, such as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion, and hyperacidity. Ultimately, the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing.

The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist. It leads to depression, lethargy, and weakness. Periodic mood shifts also indicate the

stress status of the students, executives, and professionals.

1. What is the tone of the passage?

- 1. Authoritative
- 2. Anxious
- 3. Informative
- 4. Dejected

2. Which situation does NOT lead to stress?

- 1. Finding a penny on the ground
- 2. Giving exams as a teenager
- 3. Loss of job as an adult
- 4. Losing a toy as a child

3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of 'success' from the passage.

- 1. Neglect
- 2. Laxity
- 3. Default
- 4. Failure

4. What does excessive stress NOT result in?

- 1. Hypertension
- 2. Indigestion
- 3. Relaxation
- 4. Palpitation

5. Select an appropriate title for the passage.

- 1. Levels of Stress in Different Age Groups
- 2. Stress and Relief
- 3. Life and Stress
- 4. Stress and its Consequences

75. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

It is not an exaggeration to say that the question of where and when the Black Death, the deadliest pandemic ever, originated is one of the biggest mysteries in human history. After all, the Black Death was the first wave of the second plague pandemic of the 14th to early 19th centuries. It killed some 50-60% of the population in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and an unaccountable number of people in Central Asia.

Passage



Different proposals, based on competing theories, have been put forward. But in 2017, I came across some records describing an intriguing medieval cemetery in Kara-Djigach, Chüy Valley, northern Kyrgyzstan, which I suspected may hold the key. As part of a multidisciplinary team co-led by Maria Spyrou at University of Tübingen, we have now investigated several specimens from individuals buried at that site – and come up with an answer.

The idea that the Black Death originated in the east – territories overlapping, roughly speaking, Central Asia, Mongolia and China – dates back to the contemporaries of the pandemic in Europe and the Islamic world. The modern, academic Chinese origin theory dates back to at least to in 1756-8 and a publication about the history of Central Asia by French scholar Joseph de Guignes.

1. What is the tone of the speaker?

- 1. Humorous 2. Explanatory 3. Pessimistic 4. Informal

2. What is the theme of the passage?

- 1. Pitfall of Black Death 2. Impact of Black Death 3. Origin of Black Death 4. History of Black Death

3. How does the passage describe Black Death?

- 1. The first wave of the second plague pandemic 2. The worst specimen of human created tragedy 3. The specimen of human evolution and its evidence 4. The initiator of all the future pandemics

4. Select the suitable word given in the passage which means 'areas of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state'.

- 1. Territories 2. Contemporaries 3. Population 4. Mysteries

5. Which of the following may be the probable origin of Black Death, according to the passage?

- 1. Kyrgyzstan 2. India 3. Mongolia 4. China

76. Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

Humans are social animals by nature. To prosper in life, we require the company of others, and the strength of our bonds has a significant influence on our mental health and happiness. Being socially linked to people may help you cope with stress, worry and depression, increase your self-esteem, bring comfort and joy, prevent loneliness, and even add years to your life.

On the other hand, a lack of strong social relationships might put your mental and emotional health at in danger. Many of us use social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram to locate and communicate with one another in today's society. While each has its own set of advantages, it's vital to realise that social media will never be a substitute for genuine human interaction. In order to trigger the hormones that relieve stress and make you feel happier, healthier, and more optimistic, you must interact with individuals in person. Spending too much time on social media, ironically for a tool supposed to bring people closer together, can instead make you feel more lonely and isolated, and aggravate mental health issues like anxiety and depression. If you're spending too much time on social media and are experiencing emotions of unhappiness, discontent, irritation or loneliness, it's time to re-evaluate your online habits and establish a healthier balance.

Because social media is such a new technology, little study has been done to determine the long-term effects, good or ill, of its use. Multiple studies, however, have linked extensive social media use to

Passage



an increased risk of melancholy, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm and even suicide ideation. The purpose of social media sites is to capture your interest, keep you online, and keep you checking your screen for updates. It's how businesses generate money. However, much like a gambling addiction or a nicotine, alcohol, or drug addiction, social media use may lead to psychological cravings. When you get a like, a share, or a positive reaction to a post, your brain releases dopamine, the same 'reward' chemical that you get after winning at a slot machine, eating chocolate, or smoking a cigarette, for example. The more you're rewarded, the more time you want to spend on social media, even if it has negative consequences in other areas of your life.

1. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Discontent

- 1. Serenity 2. Satisfaction 3. Approval 4. Relaxation

2. Select the most appropriate title for the given passage.

- 1. Advantages of Social Media
2. Consequences of Social Media
3. Social Media and Mental Health
4. Mental Health During Troubled Times

3. What is the purpose of social media sites?

- 1. To provide a platform to replace physical interaction
2. To provide a platform to decrease loneliness
3. To keep people online by capturing their interests
4. To offer a platform for people with anxiety and depression

4. Which hormone is released in our minds when we receive a positive reaction to our posts on social media?

- 1. Adrenaline 2. Dopamine
3. Calcitonin 4. Melatonin

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- 1. Social media can offer a substitute for real-life social interaction.
2. Lack of social interaction may cause anxiety and depression.
3. Social bonds have a strong influence on our mental health.
4. Humans need to reassess their social media usage.

77. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Migaloo is by far one of the world's most recognisable whales, because he is completely white. Thanks to genetic sampling of Migaloo's skin, scientists have identified that he's male, and his albino appearance is a result of a variation in the gene responsible for the colour of his skin. Simply by looking different, Migaloo has become an icon within Australia's east coast humpback whale population. Indeed, Migaloo has his own Twitter account with over 10,000 followers, and website where fans can lodge sightings and learn more about humpback whales.

He was first discovered in 1991 off Byron Bay, Australia, and has since played hide and seek for many years, with many not knowing where or when he'll show up next. He's even surprised Kiwi fans by showing up in New Zealand waters. With the last official sighting two years ago, the time has once again come for us to ask: where is Migaloo? Already this year there have been false sightings, such as a

Passage



near all white whale spotted off New South Wales. To make things more confusing, regular-looking humpbacks can trick whale watchers when they flip upside down, due to their white bellies.

1. What is the theme of the passage?

- 1. Protection of whales
2. The extinction of Migaloo
3. The sighting of Migaloo
4. Whale hunting and its aftermath

2. How can regular-looking humpbacks trick whale watchers?

- 1. By posting tweets on Twitter
2. By appearing secretly and unexpectedly
3. By showing their white coloured bellies
4. By displaying their huge size

3. Where was Migaloo first discovered?

- 1. South Wales 2. Australia
3. Jamaica 4. New Zealand

4. Select the suitable word given in the passage which means 'turn over with a sudden quick movement'.

- 1. Albino 2. Flip
3. Humpback 4. Lodge

5. What is the tone of the speaker?

- 1. Pessimistic 2. Descriptive
3. Cynical 4. Melancholic

78. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Mountains occupy about a quarter of the Earth's land, harbour most of its biodiversity hotspots and supply fresh water to an estimated half of humanity.

Present on every continent, mountains include a multitude of ecosystems holding many unique species such as snow leopards and mountain gorillas. They are also home to great cultural diversity among people adapted to the challenges of mountain life. Their special traditions and breath-taking scenery attract ever-growing numbers of tourists.

Mountain regions are particularly sensitive to degradation from both human pressures and climate change. Steep slopes mean the clearing of forest for farming, settlements or infrastructure can cause serious soil erosion as well as the loss of habitat. Erosion and pollution harm the quality of water flowing downstream. Climate change threatens the quantity and timing of water supplies to farms, cities, industry and power stations. Fast-rising temperatures are forcing mountain species, ecosystems and the people that depend on them to adapt or migrate.

1. What is the ANTONYM for the word 'diversity' from the passage?

- 1. Block 2. Dilemma
3. Uniformity 4. Heritage

2. What is the ANTONYM for the word 'migrate' from the passage?

- 1. Stay 2. Run 3. Die 4. Assume

3. Which is the best description of the tone of the passage?

- 1. Laudatory 2. Emotional
3. Biased 4. Humanistic

4. Which of the following represents the structure of the passage?

- 1. Chronological 2. Definition
3. Compare and contrast 4. Cause-effect

Passage



5. Which of the following most accurately states the central idea of the passage?

- 1. Pollution 2. Mountain ecosystem 3. Biodegradation 4. Climate change

79. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The rise of social media has undoubtedly changed the way we communicate with one another. It has connected people from all over the world and provided a platform for voices that were once silenced. However, as with any form of communication, social media has its downsides.

One of the most significant downsides is the spread of misinformation. With the rise of social media, anyone can become a content creator, which means that anyone can share information without fact-checking or considering the consequences. This has led to a proliferation of false information, from conspiracy theories to hoaxes, that can quickly spread and cause harm.

One recent example of this is the COVID-19 pandemic. Social media has played a significant role in the spread of misinformation about the virus and the vaccines. False claims about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines have caused many people to be hesitant or outright refuse to get vaccinated. This, in turn, has led to the prolongation of the pandemic and the loss of many lives.

The spread of misinformation on social media is not a new phenomenon. In fact, it has been around for centuries. However, the speed and ease with which misinformation can spread on social media have made it a particularly pernicious problem in our modern world. Throughout history, misinformation has been used to sow discord and manipulate people. For example, during World War II, the Nazi regime used propaganda to spread false information about Jews, Roma, and other targeted groups in

order to justify their persecution and ultimately their extermination. Similarly, during the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union used propaganda to demonise one another and sway public opinion.

The difference now is that social media has made it easier than ever to spread false information. A single post or tweet can reach millions of people within seconds, and it can be difficult to counteract the effects of that misinformation once it has spread. So, what can we do about it? The answer is not simple, but it starts with education. We need to teach people how to think critically, how to fact-check, and how to discern between credible sources and fake news. We also need to hold social media companies accountable for the content on their platforms and ensure that they are doing their part to combat the spread of misinformation.

In short, the rise of social media has given us a powerful tool for communication, but we must use it wisely. We must be vigilant against the spread of misinformation and work together to ensure that the information we consume and share is accurate and reliable.

1. What is the ANTONYM of the word 'accurate', " as used in the passage?

- 1. Correct 2. Inexact 3. Precise 4. Reliable

2. Identify the main theme of the passage.

- 1. The role of education in combating misinformation. 2. The dangers of spreading false information on social media. 3. The significance of propaganda and misinformation. 4. The benefits of social media for communication.

Passage



3. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT a cause of the spread of false information on social media?

1. Lack of education and critical thinking skills among social media users.
2. Inability to discern between credible sources and fake news.
3. Social media companies' failure to regulate false information on their platforms.
4. The desire of people to engage in controversial and sensational content.

4. What is the author's opinion of social media in this passage?

1. Social media has had a mostly positive impact on society, despite some drawbacks.
2. Social media is responsible for the spread of false information, but its impact on society is otherwise neutral.
3. Social media has changed the way we communicate, but has also brought about significant negative consequences.
4. Social media is a powerful tool for communication that has many benefits.

5. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

1. To warn readers of the dangers of spreading false information on social media.
2. To provide an in-depth analysis of the benefits of social media for communication.
3. To explain the history of propaganda and misinformation and its impact on society.
4. To persuade readers to delete their social media accounts.

80. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

As the world's population approaches 8 billion and resource use intensifies, pollution is ever more extensive, pervasive, and persistent. It affects our health through the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. By 2025, the world's cities will produce 2.2 billion tonnes of waste every year, more than three times the amount produced in 2009. That said, pollution is not a new phenomenon and is largely controllable and often avoidable, as shown in some countries and cities that have succeeded in decoupling economic growth from pollution and waste accumulation. With the end goal to eradicate all forms of pollution by 2030, the UN Environment Program was tasked by the UN Environment Assembly to coordinate the implementation of a global plan reiterating that pollution is not only an environmental priority, it's a priority for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Which is the best description of the tone of the passage?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Technical | 2. Sarcastic |
| 3. Dogmatic | 4. Humanistic |

2. Which of the following most accurately states the central idea of the passage?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. United Nations | 2. Pollution free planet |
| 3. Population explosion | 4. Economic growth |

3. Which of the following represents the structure of the passage?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Definition | 2. Cause-effect |
| 3. Critique | 4. Chronology |

4. What is the ANTONYM for the word 'pervasive' from the passage?

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Clear | 2. Emotional | 3. Limited | 4. Offensive |
|----------|--------------|------------|--------------|

Passage



5. What is the ANTONYM for the word 'priority' from the passage?

- 1. Factor
- 2. Last
- 3. Part
- 4. Task

81. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow

The world of social media is a strange and wondrous place. It's a world where you can connect with people from all over the globe, share your thoughts and opinions, and maybe even go viral if you're lucky. But let's be real, it's also a world filled with endless cat videos, oversharing, and drama.

One of the most interesting things about social media is the way it's changed the way we communicate. We've gone from long, thoughtful emails to quick, abbreviated messages with emojis and acronyms. And don't even get me started on the whole hashtag phenomenon. It's like we're all speaking a different language now. But there are also some downsides to this constant connection. It's easy to get sucked into the world of social media and forget about the real world around us. We're so busy scrolling through our feeds that we forget to enjoy the little moments in life. And let's not forget about the pressure to present the perfect life online. It's like we're all in a competition to see who

can be the most popular, the most successful, the most enviable. Despite all of this, I have to admit, I'm still a fan of social media. It's a great way to stay connected with friends and family, and I've even made some new friends through various online communities. Plus, let's face it, sometimes you just need a good laugh at a ridiculous meme.

1. What is the ANTONYM of the word 'perfect', as used in the passage?

- 1. Troublesome
- 2. Limited
- 3. Unsatisfactory
- 4. Laughable

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way social media has changed the way we communicate?

- 1. Quick, abbreviated messages with emojis and acronyms.
- 2. Video conferencing for more meaningful conversations.
- 3. Connecting with people from all over the world.
- 4. The use of hashtags.

3. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- 1. The Joys and Sorrows of Social Media
- 2. The Benefits of Social Media
- 3. The Dark Side of Social Media
- 4. Mastering the Art of Social Media

4. What is one of the downsides of social media mentioned in the passage?

- 1. It can help connect with people all over the globe.
- 2. It's a great way to stay connected with friends and family.
- 3. It encourages people to enjoy the little moments in life.
- 4. It can lead to pressure to present a perfect life online.

5. What is the theme of the passage?

- 1. The dangers of spending too much time online.
- 2. The importance of social media for businesses.
- 3. The positive and negative effects of social media.
- 4. The history of social media.

Passage



82. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

What if globally designed products could radically change how we work, produce and consume? Several examples across continents show the way we are producing and consuming goods could be improved by relying on globally shared digital resources, such as design, knowledge and software. Imagine a prosthetic hand designed by geographically dispersed communities of scientists, designers and enthusiasts in a collaborative manner via the web. All knowledge and software related to the hand is shared globally as a digital commons.

People from all over the world who are connected online and have access to local manufacturing machines (from 3D printing and CNC machines to low-tech crafts and tools) can, ideally with the help of an expert, manufacture a customised hand. This is the case of the Open Bionics project, which produces designs for robotic and bionic devices.

There are no patent costs to pay for. Less transportation of materials is needed, since a considerable part of the manufacturing takes place locally; maintenance is easier, products are designed to last as long as possible, and costs are thus much lower.

1. Identify the most suitable title for the given passage.

- 1. Knowledge Explosion
2. Customised Hand
3. Shared Information
4. Digital Globalisation

2. What is the term used in the passage for globally shared digital things?

- 1. Digital commons 2. Digital information
3. Digital resources 4. Digital world

3. What is the tone of the author?

- 1. Speculative 2. Caustic
3. Acerbic 4. Belligerent

4. Which of the following is NOT a globally shared digital resource?

- 1. Knowledge 2. Design
3. Automobile 4. Software

5. Select the most suitable word from the passage which means 'scattered'.

- 1. Collaborative 2. Shared
3. Customised 4. Dispersed

83. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

As a society, we have come a long way in terms of progress and development. We have eradicated diseases, explored space, and created technological wonders that were once thought impossible. Yet, there is still one issue that continues to plague us: stupidity. Yes, stupidity. The thing that seems to be contagious and has been spreading faster than the common cold. It's everywhere you look - on social media, in politics, in the workplace. You can't escape it. It's as if we've all collectively decided that intelligence and common sense are no longer important. Why bother using your brain when you can just rely on your gut feelings and conspiracy theories? Take politics, for example. It used to be that politicians were expected to be knowledgeable and well-informed about the issues they were dealing with. Now, it seems that all you need is a catchy slogan and some empty promises to win an election. And don't even get me started on social media. It's a breeding ground for stupidity. People will believe anything they read as long as it confirms their preconceived biases. And don't even think

Passage



about trying to present them with actual facts and evidence. That's just a waste of time.

But it's not just individuals who are to blame for this epidemic of stupidity. Our education system is failing us as well. We're teaching our kids how to pass tests instead of how to think critically and solve problems. It's no wonder we have a generation of adults who can't even find their way around a basic math problem.

Of course, there are some who would argue that stupidity is just a different way of thinking. That it's a valid perspective that deserves to be respected. To those people, I say this: if you want to be stupid, go ahead. Just don't expect the rest of us to respect your opinions when they're based on nothing but ignorance and misinformation.

It's time for us to take a stand against stupidity. We need to start valuing intelligence and critical thinking again. We need to hold our leaders accountable for their actions and demand that they be knowledgeable and well-informed. We need to teach our children how to think, not just how to memorise.

It won't be easy, but it's a fight worth fighting. Because if we don't, we'll be stuck in a world where stupidity reigns supreme, and there's no telling what kind of damage that could do. So let's all do our part and start using our brains again. It's time to put an end to the epidemic of stupidity once and for all.

1. Which of the following techniques has been used by the author of the passage to convey the message?

1. Examples and anecdotes
2. Factual and chronological account
3. Humour and exaggeration
4. Parody and mimicry

2. According to the passage, what is the solution to the issue of stupidity in society?

1. Embracing ignorance and misinformation
2. Teaching students how to pass tests
3. Electing politicians with catchy slogans
4. Encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving skills

3. What is the tone of the passage?

1. Sarcastic
2. Serious
3. Melancholic
4. Joyful

4. According to the author of the passage, who among the following is NOT responsible for the spread of stupidity?

1. Politicians
2. Education system
3. Individuals
4. Children

5. What could be a suitable title for the passage?

1. The Evils of Social Media
2. The Benefits of Stupidity
3. The Joy of Living in a World of Ignorance
4. The Importance of Critical Thinking

84. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The world of social media is a strange and wondrous place. It's a world where you can connect with people from all over the globe, share your thoughts and opinions, and maybe even go viral if you're lucky. But let's be real, it's also a world filled with endless cat videos, oversharing, and drama. One of the most interesting things about social media is the way it's changed the way we communicate. We've gone from long, thoughtful emails to quick, abbreviated messages with emojis and acronyms. And don't even

Passage



get me started on the whole hashtag phenomenon. It's like we're all speaking a different language now.

But there are also some downsides to this constant connection. It's easy to get sucked into the world of social media and forget about the real world around us. We're so busy scrolling through our feeds that we forget to enjoy the little moments in life. And let's not forget about the pressure to present the perfect life online. It's like we're all in a competition to see who can be the most popular, the most successful, the most enviable.

Despite all of this, I have to admit, I'm still a fan of social media. It's a great way to stay connected with friends and family, and I've even made some new friends through various online communities. Plus, let's face it, sometimes you just need a good laugh at a ridiculous meme.

1. What is the ANTONYM of the word 'perfect', as used in the passage?

- 1. Troublesome
- 2. Limited
- 3. Unsatisfactory
- 4. Laughable

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way social media has changed the way we communicate?

- 1. Quick, abbreviated messages with emojis and acronyms.
- 2. Video conferencing for more meaningful conversations.
- 3. Connecting with people from all over the world.
- 4. The use of hashtags.

3. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- 1. The Joys and Sorrows of Social Media
- 2. The Benefits of Social Media

- 3. The Dark Side of Social Media
- 4. Mastering the Art of Social Media

4. What is one of the downsides of social media mentioned in the passage?

- 1. It can help connect with people all over the globe.
- 2. It's a great way to stay connected with friends and family.
- 3. It encourages people to enjoy the little moments in life.
- 4. It can lead to pressure to present a perfect life online.

5. What is the theme of the passage?

- 1. The dangers of spending too much time online.
- 2. The importance of social media for businesses.
- 3. The positive and negative effects of social media.
- 4. The history of social media.

85. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Throughout history, the intricacies of the human mind have been the subject of fascination and inquiry. From ancient philosophers to modern-day neuroscientists, the workings of the brain have been studied and analysed in an attempt to unravel its mysteries. However, despite centuries of research, much remains unknown about the complexities of human cognition and consciousness.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the human mind is its ability to create and imagine. The human mind has the capacity to conceptualise and bring into being ideas that were previously unknown or unimaginable, from artistic expression to scientific discovery. The process of creativity has captured the attention of scholars and laypeople alike and is both enigmatic and awe-inspiring.

Passage



There have been many theories proposed to explain the process of creativity. Some suggest that it is a purely subconscious process, while others argue that creativity is a result of conscious effort and intentional problem-solving. Still others suggest that creativity arises from a combination of conscious and subconscious processes.

Despite the ongoing debate over the nature of creativity, one thing is clear: it is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon. Creativity can manifest in a wide range of human activities, from the creation of art and literature to the development of scientific theories and inventions. It can occur in both individual and collective contexts and can be driven by a variety of factors such as curiosity, passion, or the desire for recognition.

Creativity also has the potential to bring about positive change in the world. Throughout history, creative individuals and groups have used their talents to address social, political, and environmental challenges, often inspiring others to take action and make a difference. From the abolitionist movement to the civil rights movement to the environmental movement, creativity has played a crucial role in promoting social justice and positive change.

Despite the many benefits of creativity, it is not without its challenges. The process of creative expression can be fraught with obstacles, from self-doubt and insecurity to external pressures and constraints. Moreover, not all creative ideas are successful or well-received, and many artists and innovators face rejection and criticism as they seek to bring their ideas to fruition. Despite these challenges, however, the human drive to create and imagine persists. Individuals and groups continue to harness the power of creativity to make a difference in the world. From the humblest amateur artist to the most celebrated innovator, the human capacity for

creativity remains one of our greatest strengths and sources of inspiration.

1. Select an appropriate title for the passage.

1. The Power of Creativity
2. The Complexities of Human Cognition
3. The History of the Human Mind
4. The Role of the Human Mind in Promoting Positive Change

2. What is the main focus of the passage?

1. The complexities and challenges of cognitive processes.
2. The mysteries of the human mind.
3. The nature of creativity, its benefits and challenges.
4. The nature of fancy and imagination.

3. Which of the following factors can drive creativity?

1. Self-doubt and insecurity
2. Curiosity and passion
3. Fancy and imagination
4. External pressures and constraints

4. According to the passage, what is one of the challenges of creative expression?

1. The absence of external pressures and constraints.
2. The limited capacity of the human mind.
3. The lack of appreciation for creative ideas.
4. The overemphasis on conscious problem-solving.

5. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM for the word 'fraught'.

1. Tranquil
2. Calm
3. Beset
4. Devoid

Passage



86. Read the given passage and answer the question that follows.

We started our research into organisational and personal excellence by studying a slightly different topic. We figured that if we could learn why certain people were more effective than others, then we could learn exactly what they did, clone it and pass it on to others. We asked people to identify who they thought were their most effective colleagues. In fact, over the past twenty-five years, we have asked over twenty thousand people to identify the individuals in their organisations who could really get things done. We wanted to find those who were not just influential but who were far more influential than the rest.

1. Which real life situation can be the most appropriate to be inferred from the passage?

- 1. Inflation has direct influence on the morals and ethics of an individual.
2. If we do something wrong to decent people, the same comes to haunt us even after many years.
3. People nowadays do not have patience and want quick success and does not matter what path they choose to obtain their targets.
4. Jassie is an efficient employee whose work ethics can be a case study to learn more about organisational and personal excellence.

2. Select the most suitable structure for the above passage.

- 1. Chronological 2. Cause and Effect
3. Pragmatic 4. Compare and contrast

3. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

- Effective
1. Deniable 2. Harmonious
3. Fruitless 4. Courteous

4. Select the most appropriate title to the given passage.

- 1. Research Grants in Organisations
2. Learn, Clone and Pass
3. Most Effective Colleagues
4. Different Topics

5. Select the statement that most appropriately sums up the passage given.

- 1. Some people cannot be identified due to their most effective ways in 25 years.
2. Research grants in an organisation should be increased for personal excellence.
3. It takes 25 years of research to make people more effective and influential.
4. Some people are more effective and more influential than others to get things done.

87. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow

If you pay close attention to soap advertisements, you may hear of its pH value being claimed perfect for human skin. But is there really such a thing? Let's start at the beginning. pH (potential Hydrogen) is defined as the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution. pH value ranges between 0 and 14. 7 is the neutral point, 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most alkaline. More importantly, your skin isn't exactly pH 5.5; it falls in a range between 4.0 and 7.0, depending on diverse factors like the body part, age, genetics, ethnicity, and environment conditions.

So, are products formulated at pH 5.5 perfect for skin? The short answer: not really! First, parameters like texture and other ingredients indicate a cleanser's quality, much better than pH alone. Second, though the skin pH rises slightly immediately after cleaning even with plain water, it reverts to its mild acidic pH in an hour. Healthy skin quickly rebalances the 'acid mantle' - a protective

Passage



layer over the skin – and is unaffected in the long term by the cleanser’s pH. Skin modulates pH, making skin products function optimally. So, why market pH 5.5 products as “perfect”? Well, for certain skin types (e.g., oily skin) and certain skin conditions (like acne), an increase in pH can aggravate these skin situations. This might lead to an interpretation that a skin care product needs to be at a 5.5 pH for optimum cleansing.

Hence, skincare experts have expressed reservations about pH being the sole criterion of product safety and ‘acid mantle’ preservation when factors including plain water may contribute to the same. Thus, an ideal product is almost impossible to define. So, look well beyond pH alone.

1. According to the passage, the ‘acid mantle’ refers to:

- 1. an acidic skin product with the right pH
2. a layer over the skin that is balanced by healthy skin in terms of its pH
3. an acidic cleansing agent with a pH of 5.5
4. a layer over the skin that keeps the skin pH at 5.5

2. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- 1. An increase in pH can aggravate certain skin conditions.
2. The best way to judge the safety of a skin care product is by its pH.
3. There is no perfect pH for the human skin.
4. Human skin adjusts the pH so that a cleansing agent functions optimally.

3. According to the passage, the pH value of human skin is generally:

- 1. between 4 and 7
2. 5.5
3. between 7 and 14
4. between 0 and 7

4. “Is there really such a thing?” By “such a thing” the author is referring to:

- 1. close attention paid to advertisements
2. the perfect pH value for human skin
3. the perfect soap for all skin types
4. soap advertisements

5. “Let’s start at the beginning.” By this, the author means that:

- 1. we should start discussing soap advertisements
2. we should start with the basic facts before going into the issue
3. we should first answer the question “Is there such a thing?”
4. we should look at the characteristics of a good soap

88. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Anna Pávlovna’s drawing room was gradually filling. The highest Petersburg society was assembled there: people differing widely in age and character but alike in the social circle to which they belonged.

Prince Vasíli’s daughter, the beautiful Héléne, wore a ball dress and her badge as maid of honor. The youthful little Princess Bolkónskaya, known as the most fascinating woman in Petersburg was also there. Vasíli’s son, Hippolyte, Mortemart and many others had also come. To each new arrival Anna Pávlovna said, “You have not yet seen my aunt,” or “You do not know my aunt?” and very gravely conducted him or her to a little old lady, wearing large bows of ribbon in her cap, who had come sailing in from another room as soon as the guests began to arrive; and slowly turning her eyes from the visitor to her aunt, Anna Pávlovna mentioned each one’s name and then left them.

Each visitor performed the ceremony of greeting this old aunt whom not one of them knew, not one of

Passage



them wanted to know, and not one of them cared about; Anna Pávlovna observed these greetings with mournful and solemn interest and silent approval. The aunt spoke to each of them in the same words, about their health and her own. And each visitor, though politeness prevented his showing impatience, left the old woman with a sense of relief at having performed a vexatious duty and did not return to her the whole evening.

1. Match words from the passage with their meanings

Word Meaning

- 1. solemn a. captivating
2. fascinating b. annoying
3. vexatious c. grave
1. 1-a, 2-c, 3-b 2. 1-b, 2-c, 2-a
3. 1-c, 2-b, 3-a 4. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b

2. The guests in Anna's drawing room were:

- 1. only men and women belonging to high society
2. from varied social backgrounds and age groups
3. only very good looking women
4. all elderly men and women from high society

3. The guests seemed:

- 1. very delighted to meet Anna's aunt
2. least interested in Anna's aunt
3. very glad to be introduced to Anna
4. interested in talking about their health

4. "The guests left the old woman with a sense of relief at having performed a vexatious duty".

The duty is described as vexatious because:

- 1. the guests were not happy when they finally left the aunt
2. it was quite pleasing to the guests
3. the guests were happy to have completed the assigned duty
4. it was a duty they found quite annoying

5. When the guests arrived, Anna:

- 1. met them unwillingly
2. excitedly took them to meet the Prince
3. took some of them to meet her aunt
4. took each one to meet her aunt

89. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The strain, Tropical Race 4 (TR4), was first identified in Taiwan, and has jumped from Asia to the Middle East and Africa, reaching as far as Latin America. Scientists are describing it as the equivalent of Covid-19 in bananas. As the coronavirus disease outbreak rages on, 'fusarium wilt TR4', a novel fungus strain that has devastated plantations across the globe this year, is setting up new hotspots and threatening output in India, the world's largest producer of bananas. It cripples plantations by first attacking the leaves, which turn yellow from their trailing edges before wilting away. There is no effective remedy yet.

"One could say it is the Covid-19 of the plant world. Hotspots have been found in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which we are trying to contain," said S. Uma, the director of National Research Centre for Bananas (NRCB), Trichy. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, TR4 is one of the 'the most destructive of all plant diseases'. As with Covid-19, there is no treatment yet. So, scientists recommend biosecurity measures including 'plant quarantine' to slow its spread. The

Passage



spreading disease has jeopardised the \$26 billion global banana trade. A healthy snack, banana is the world's most globally exported fruit, according to the FAO.

That's a reason for worry as the disease is breaching borders through imports. India produces 27 million tonnes of bananas annually and grows about 100 varieties. TR4 has infected the most commonly sold variety, the one you mostly likely have for breakfast: Grand Nain a curvy yellow fruit.

Inability to contain TR4 could jolt farm incomes and push up banana prices. One medium banana (126 gms) provides about 110 calories, 0 gram fat, 1 gram protein, 28 grams carbohydrate, 15 grams sugar (naturally occurring), 3 grams fibre and 450 mg potassium and trace quantities of vitamin C and B6, according to the Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition. Most of India's bananas are consumed domestically. Ecuador, the largest exporter, is currently the epicentre and scientists haven't been able to ascertain how TR4 entered India. Fusarium wilt is not new. It entirely wiped out Gros Michel, the dominant export variety of bananas in 1950s. It was in response to this that a new resistant variety, Grand Nain, came up. That has now fallen to TR4. The challenge is to now identify or develop new resistant varieties. That's the only way to manage it, according to Uma, until an effective agent is found.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is advocating a set of measures, known as 'biopriming'. It has asked farmers whose plantations have been affected to abandon them. They must grow rice for a year or two before returning to banana. "That way the chain is broken," said R Selvarajan, a scientist with the NRCB.

1. Biopriming', a measure suggested by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, requires:

1. identifying hotspots and quarantining them

2. quarantining banana plants

3. trimming the diseased banana plants

4. abandoning banana plantation and growing rice for a year

2. After reading this passage it can be said that it is:

1. a news report
2. a technical report
3. a narrative
4. an epilogue

3. The main theme of the passage is:

1. the outbreak of a Covid-19 like disease in bananas
2. the nutritious value of bananas
3. the measures for containing the banana disease
4. the impact of disease on banana plantations

4. Which place is the current epicenter of TR4?

1. Ecuador
2. India
3. Middle East
4. Taiwan

5. The calorific value of a medium size banana is 110 and it is richest in:

1. potassium
2. fibre
3. protein
4. carbohydrate

90. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

I was a chef in the Taj banquet kitchen when the gunshots started that night. Initially, the news was that it was an internal gang war in a neighbourhood nearby and that it would die down soon. It was only at about 10.30 or 11 p.m. that we understood the magnitude of what was going on. We were seven chefs in the kitchen that night, not one of whom left the Taj despite knowing all exit points. By then the shootout had happened at the Wasabi restaurant and all those who had survived were pouring into the

Passage



banquet hall and kitchen where we were working. As soon as we had heard about the shootout, we had prepared sandwiches for our surviving guests which we then handed out. After this, we entered the corridor to escort our guests out of the hotel through the back entrance. We had successfully helped a few guests when I saw the left profile of a terrorist in a red cap, who began shooting. I was standing next to a refrigerator, when my head chef and his assistant chef both got shot. There was chaos, panic and fear as our guests started running everywhere – but by then they had opened fire in all directions.

All of a sudden, everything went quiet and that silence was the worst. I tried looking around for survivors, but it was just me. I stayed there for a few hours, until I realised that no help would be coming anytime soon. I looked at the refrigerator where I'd been only a while ago and it had 3 bullet holes in it – I'd narrowly escaped death, but it was horrifying to see that my guests and colleagues hadn't been as lucky. I won't look back on that day as just a terrorist attack, but a day when many brave individuals looked death in the eye to help others.

1. The shootout first started in:

- 1. the corridor near the exit 2. the banquet hall 3. Wasabi restaurant 4. the kitchen

2. On the day of the shoot out :

- 1. all chefs left through the exit points 2. the brave ones faced death to help those in need 3. many of the staff behaved like cowards 4. all of those who were present in the hotel died

3. Which of the following did the hotel staff do?

- a) Served snacks to the guest s b) Escort ed guests out of the hotel c) Escort ed guests to their rooms

- d) Looked around for survivors e) Ran here and there in fear and panic f) Ran out of the hotel to save themselves

- 1. c, e and f 2. a, c and e 3. a, b and d 4. b, d and f

4. 'All of a sudden, everything went quiet and that silence was the worst .' The narrator felt so because:

- 1. it indicated everyone had run away 2. the narrator was afraid of dying 3. the narrator was alone to manage the kitchen 4. it appeared as if everyone around had been shot

5. By saying that many 'looked death in the eye' the narrator means they:

- 1. faced death bravely 2. thought death to be the last option 3. were very disturbed 4. showed fear of dying

91. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

I was on a visit to Calcutta. It was Saturday and I was staying for the weekend at my cousin's. That evening my cousin, who works in a firm, had to fly to Delhi for a meeting. So, his wife drove him to the airport and I accompanied them. On our way back from the airport we stopped by a lake. My cousin's wife said, "Let me show you where we spend some of our evenings." She locked the car and we began to walk towards the lake. There was a small bridge to cross and she led the way. Three young men were coming from the other end of the bridge. As they approached us, one of them said to me, "Can I have a match?" As I put my hand into my pocket for the match box, I

Passage



heard a cry of alarm. And then I saw what was happening.

One of the other two men had snatched the handbag from my cousin's wife and passed it on the man next to him. He in turn passed it to the third man and all three started running back to where they had come from. My cousin's wife kept shouting and hurling abuses at them but made no attempt to follow them to retrieve her bag. I wanted to chase them but she stopped me saying that such rogues could be armed and dangerous. As it was dark, the three men were soon out of sight. I felt sorry for not being of any help but my cousin's wife assured me that there was no money or valuables in the bag. She had just kept a couples of apples and a packet of biscuits in the handbag in case I felt hungry.

1. Why did the narrator's cousin's wife stop him from chasing the thieves?

- 1. There were no valuables in the handbag.
2. She feared they could harm the narrator.
3. She wanted to retrieve the bag herself.
4. He couldn't follow them in the dark.

2. After dropping the narrator's cousin, his cousin's wife took him to a lake to:

- 1. enjoy the cool breeze in the evening
2. have an evening walk on the bridge
3. have a picnic by the lakeside
4. show him the place where she and her husband spent their evenings

3. One of the three men asked the narrator for a match to:

- 1. stop and divert the narrator's attention
2. pass the bag to his accomplice
3. smoke a cigarette
4. burn the handbag

4. How long was the narrator going to stay at his cousin's place?

- 1. Two weeks
2. One day
3. One week
4. Two days

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- 1. There was no real loss in the incident.
2. The narrator drove his cousin to the airport.
3. The narrator's cousin lived in Calcutta.
4. The handbag contained apples and biscuits.

92. Read the following passage and answer the questions given that follow.

An excavation of ancient Babylon revealed evidence that Babylonians were making soap around 2800 B.C. This is the first concrete evidence we have of soap-like substance. The early soap makers were Babylonians, Mesopotamians, Egyptians, as well as the ancient Greeks and Romans. All of them made soap by mixing fat, oils and salts. Soap wasn't made and used for bathing and personal hygiene but was rather produced for cleaning cooking utensils or goods or was used for medicine purposes. The early references to soap making were for the use of soap in cleaning wool and cotton used in textile manufacture and was used medicinally for at least 5000 years.

Soap is a product for cleaning made from natural ingredients that may include both plant and animal products, including items as: animal fat, such as tallow or vegetable oil, such as castor, olive, or coconut oil. Soap supposedly got its name from Mount Sapo in Rome. The word 'sapo', Latin for soap, first appeared in Pliny the Elder's Historia Naturalis. The first soap was made by Babylonians around 2800 B.C.

Soap making history goes back many thousands years. In the early beginnings of soap making, it was an exclusive technique used by small groups of soap

Passage



makers. The demand for soap was high, but it was very expensive and there was a monopoly on soap production in many areas. Back then, plant byproducts and animal and vegetable oils were the main ingredients of soap. The price of soap was significantly reduced in 1791 when a Frenchman by the name of LeBlanc discovered a chemical process that allowed soap to be made cheaply and sold for significantly less money.

More than 20 years later, another Frenchman identified relationships between glycerin, fats and acid – what marked the beginning of modern soap making. With this discovery of another method of making soap, soap became even less expensive. Since that time, there have been no major discoveries and the same processes are used for the soap making we use and enjoy today.

Advances came as the science of chemistry developed because more was understood about the ingredients. In the mid-nineteenth century, soap for bathing became a separate commodity from laundry soap, with milder soaps being packaged, sold and made available for personal use. Liquid hand soaps were invented in the 1970s and this invention keeps soaps in the public view.

Today, there are many different kinds of soaps made for a vast array of purposes. Soap is available for personal, commercial and industrial use. There is handmade, homemade and commercially produced soap, there is soap used to wash clothes, dishes and cars, there is soap used for your pet, soap for your carpet and also soap for your child.

1. After reading the passage it can be inferred that soap was first made by:

- 1. Romans 2. Egyptians 3. Mesopotamians 4. Babylonians

2. In early days, soap was NOT used for:

- 1. cleaning different goods 2. medicine and in textile manufacturing. 3. bathing and personal hygiene 4. washing cooking utensils

3. The main theme of the passage is:

- 1. the ingredients of soap 2. the kinds of soap 3. the invention of soap 4. the history of soap

4. Soap became less expensive in the early 19th century because:

- 1. soap was manufactured by small groups of soap makers 2. the ingredients of soap had become cheaper 3. a chemical process of soap making had been discovered 4. the monopoly on soap making was curtailed

5. Till the eighteenth century, which ingredient was NOT used in making soap?

- 1. Vegetable oils 2. Plant byproducts 3. Glycerin 4. Animal fat

93. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

Difficult times could create feelings of anxiety, insecurity, and fear. As we navigate through undesirable situations and uncertainties, we find that negativities surrounding the problems consume our mind. It is in those times that we have to exert ourselves to change our perspective and adopt a more positive and solution-driven attitude. Wise people have always chosen to leverage adversities as opportunities for growth and progress, rather than succumb to negative thought patterns. Saint Kabir described how different people respond when

Passage



challenged by problems: “Gold, virtuous people and saints are resilient; you may break them a hundred times and yet they will re-join. In contrast, negative people and clay pots are fragile; once shattered, they are broken forever.” The distinguishing feature of the successful is that they have a mind-set that enables them to remain positive in the face of adversity and even utilise the negative situation for their benefit.

The eagle can teach us a few lessons on this. When the storm starts blowing, it does not cower down before it. It flies to a higher point and waits for the wind to blow over. When the storm sets in, the eagle spreads its wings and uses the draft of the wind to rise higher and higher in the sky. It does not run away from the storm, rather it uses the storm to its advantage. While the storm rages below, the eagle soars above it.

The winning attitude to overcome despair and stress is to realise that adversities have opportunities inherent in them, and opportunities do not come without problems. Hence, difficulties and obstacles have a positive side to them as they make us grow from within. A gem gets polished with friction. The finest steel is produced by putting it in fire. Similarly, the more hardships we face, the stronger we become.

1. Saint Kabir believed that saintly people:

1. can regain their strength easily
2. can be overcome by fear easily
3. are not willing to suffer a hundred times
4. can be broken easily

2. When there is a storm, an eagle _____

1. uses it to fly away to safety
2. gets scared and hides to save itself
3. flies high above it, using its force

4. waits for it to end, then starts flying

3. As per the passage, when we face difficult times:

1. our minds get overcome by negative thoughts
2. we start changing our views on life
3. we look at them as opportunities for improvement
4. we become passively engaged in overcoming them

4. Which of the following is an ideal way of handling a difficult situation?

1. Becoming overcome by stress and negativity
2. Moving away from difficulties
3. Thinking deeply about the impact of adversities
4. Making the best use of a situation to your advantage

5. Which of the following is NOT a message that the passage gives us?

1. Adversities have opportunities as well as obstacles inherent in them.
2. Those who are positive are fragile and can be easily shattered by difficulties.
3. We have to change our view point and adopt a more positive and solution-driven attitude towards difficulties.
4. Difficulties enable us to become stronger as we learn to face them.

94. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow

Unlike its Nordic neighbors, Sweden decided early on in the pandemic to forgo lockdown in the hope of achieving broad immunity to the coronavirus. While social distancing was promoted, the government allowed bars, restaurants, salons, gyms and schools to stay open.

Passage



Initially, Sweden saw death rates from Covid-19 that were similar to other European nations that had closed down their economies. But now, the Scandinavian nation's daily death toll per 1 million people is 8.71 compared to the United States' 4.59, according to online publication 'Our World in Data'. Sweden's mortality rate is the highest in Europe.

"I'd say it hasn't worked out so well," said Dr. George Rutherford, professor of epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco. "I think the mortality in Norway is something like ten-fold lower. That's the real comparator." (Norway's daily death rate is less than .01 per 1 million people.)

"If you let this go or don't try very hard or go about it in somewhat of a more restrained way rather than we have here, this is the price you pay," Rutherford said. "Maybe it didn't hurt businesses, but you have twice the mortality rate of the United States. All those people who died were part of families and they were citizens and part of the fabric of Swedish society.

And now they're gone because of a policy that hasn't worked out quite the way they thought it would." Scientists estimate herd immunity for the coronavirus is reached when 70-90% of the population becomes immune to a virus, either by becoming infected or getting a protective vaccine. Despite its relaxed response, Sweden is nowhere near to hitting that goal. Tests on 1,118 Stockholm residents carried out by Sweden's Public Health Agency over one week in late April showed that only 7.3% had developed the antibodies needed to stave off the disease. "I think herd immunity is a long way off, if we ever reach it," Björn Olsen, a professor of infectious medicine at Uppsala University, told Reuters after the release of the antibody findings.

Rutherford said we can keep doing non-pharmaceutical interventions like contact tracing, mask wearing and isolation quarantines, but also develop drugs that work better treating people who

already have the infection so they don't require critical care in a hospital.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

1. The government of Norway allowed bars, restaurants, salons, gyms and schools to stay open.
2. In the beginning, Sweden's death rate was similar to other European nations who had locked down.
3. The mortality rate in Sweden is twice the mortality rate of the United States.
4. According to scientific estimate, herd immunity for the corona virus is reached when 70-90% of the population becomes immune to the virus.

2. What was the result of having no lockdown in Sweden?

1. Sweden has achieved herd immunity against corona virus.
2. The economy in Sweden flourished more than before.
3. Sweden's mortality rate became the highest in Europe.
4. Sweden's public health care system became more robust

3. The death rate in Norway is:

1. 8.71 per 1 million people
2. 4.59 per 1 million people
3. 0.01 per 1 million people
4. 1.01 per 1 million people

4. Select the option that correctly matches the words from the passage with their meanings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| a. forgo | 1. Prevent |
| b. restrain | 2. decline |

Passage



- c. stove off 3. control
- 1. a-2, b-3, c-1 2. a-1, b-3, c-2
- 3. a-2, b-1, c-3 4. a-3, b-2, c-1

5. Why did Sweden decide against having a lockdown in the country?

- 1. They promoted social distancing.
- 2. They did not want to disturb the economy of the country.
- 3. They had faith in their public healthcare system.
- 4. They hoped to achieve broad immunity to the corona virus.

95. Based on the passage below choose the correct option for the following questions.

India is a diverse nation with many different cultures. Although there are some eating habits that are considered staples of Indian cuisine, these habits may not be practiced by all the cultures of India. Cuisine differs across India's diverse regions as a result of variation in local culture, geographical location (proximity to sea, desert, or mountains), and economics. It also varies seasonally, depending on which fruits and vegetables are ripe. Also, Middle Eastern and Central Asian influences have occurred on North Indian cuisine from the years of Mughal rule. Indian cuisine is still evolving, as a result of the nation's cultural interactions with other societies.

Historical incidents such as foreign invasions, trade relations, and colonialism have played a role in introducing certain foods to the country. For instance, potato, a staple of the diet in some regions of India, was brought to India by the Portuguese, who also introduced chilies and breadfruit. Indian cuisine has shaped the history of international relations; the spice trade between India and Europe was the primary catalyst for Europe's Age of Discovery. Spices were bought from India and traded around

Europe and Asia. Indian cuisine has influenced other cuisines across the world, especially those from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, the British Isles, Fiji, and the Caribbean.

Indian food is rich in flavor. However, spices do more than flavor a dish; They are also used to cool and warm the body during hot or cold weather. Yogurt is commonly used to flavor dishes or as a sauce to chill spicy dishes. Many Indian dishes are cooked in vegetable oil, but peanut oil is popular in northern and western India, mustard oil in eastern India, and coconut oil along the western coast, especially in Kerala. Gingelly (sesame) oil is common in the south since it imparts a fragrant, nutty aroma. In recent decades, sunflower, safflower, cottonseed, and soybean oils have become popular across India. Butter-based ghee, or deshi ghee, is used frequently, though less than in the past.

1. Indian food is rich in _____.

- 1. Chilly 2. Flavor
- 3. Desi ghee 4. Sesame oil

2. According to the passage, what has Middle Eastern and Central Asian influenced in India?

- 1. Dresses 2. North Indian cuisine
- 3. Festivals 4. Lifestyle

3. Which of the following statements is not true?

- 1. Deshi ghee, is used frequently, though less than in the past
- 2. Yogurt is commonly used to flavor dishes
- 3. Potato was brought to India by the French
- 4. Spices are also used to cool and warm the body during hot or cold weather

Passage



4. How was Indian cuisine able to influence other cuisines across the world?

- 1. Indians introduced the idea of coconut oil to people across the globe
2. Spices were bought from India and traded around Europe and Asia
3. Indians living across the globe prepared Indian food for locals
4. Indians introduced chilly food to the world

5. According to the passage, choose the correct synonym of the word 'catalyst'.

- 1. Micro 2. Disregard
3. Activator 4. Animosity

96. Based on the passage below choose the correct option for the following questions

An endangered species is a type of organism that is threatened by extinction. Species become endangered for two main reasons: loss of habitat and loss of genetic variation. A loss of habitat can happen naturally. Dinosaurs, for instance, lost their habitat about 65 million years ago. The hot, dry climate of the Cretaceous period changed very quickly, most likely because of an asteroid striking the Earth. The impact of the asteroid forced debris into the atmosphere, reducing the amount of heat and light that reached Earth's surface.

The dinosaurs were unable to adapt to this new, cooler habitat. Dinosaurs became endangered, then extinct. Human activity can also contribute to a loss of habitat. Development for housing, industry, and agriculture reduces the habitat of native organisms. This can happen in a number of different ways.

Development can eliminate habitat and native species directly. In the Amazon rain forest of South America, developers have cleared hundreds of thousands of acres. To "clear" a piece of land is to

remove all trees and vegetation from it. The Amazon rain forest is cleared for cattle ranches, logging, and urban use. Development can also endanger species indirectly. Some species, such as fig trees of the rain forest, may provide habitat for other species. As trees are destroyed, species that depend on that tree habitat may also become endangered.

Tree crowns provide habitat in the canopy, or top layer, of a rainforest. Plants such as vines, fungi such as mushrooms, and insects such as butterflies live in the rain forest canopy. So do hundreds of species of tropical birds and mammals such as monkeys. As trees are cut down, this habitat is lost. Species have less room to live and reproduce.

1. According to the passage, which of the following are the two main reasons of species becoming endangered species?

- 1. Loss of sunlight and Loss of water
2. Loss of roads and loss of hunting grounds
3. Loss of habitat and Loss of genetic variation
4. Acid rain and floods

2. Which of the following statement is correct according to the passage given above?

- 1. Development for housing, industry, and agriculture increases the habitat of native organisms.
2. A loss of habitat can happen naturally.
3. Development does not have any effect on habitat.
4. Fig trees never provide habitat for any other species

3. Which of the following word is the ANTONYM of the word 'native' used in the passage?

- 1. Original 2. Domestic
3. Exotic 4. Born

Passage



4. According to the passage, which of the following is the likely reasoning for the dinosaurs becoming endangered and then extinct?

- 1. Earthquakes 2. Asteroid striking the Earth
3. Tsunami 4. Volcanic eruptions

5. Which of the following do not live in the canopy of the Amazon rain forests?

- 1. Monkey 2. Crocodiles
3. Vines 4. Butterflies

97. Based on the passage below choose the correct option for the following questions.

With the second-largest population in the world, India is home to over 1.3 billion people. At an average of two children born per woman in 2018, the country's birth rate stood at 18.6 for every thousand inhabitants. The average life expectancy has seen a consistent increase since the 1920s and was around 69 years in 2019. However, this was still lower than the global average of around 72 years. That same year, the country's death rate was recorded at about 7.3 deaths for every thousand inhabitants. Infant mortality has also been on a steady decline over the years due to increased attention to providing special newborn care units, routine immunization and access to basic mother and child care facilities. Moreover, female infanticide and gender-selective abortions have seen a relative decline in the country ever since government regulations made such procedures illegal.

Despite these positive indicators, India had the highest number of undernourished people in the Asia Pacific region. And even though undernourishment was largely seen among low income families, it was surprisingly also observed among Indians who were from higher socioeconomic classes. Growing fast food consumption, unhealthy diet trends and an inactive lifestyle were some of the main contributing

factors for this. A large-scale survey from 2019 found that 70 percent of Indian women and 59 percent Indian men were unhealthy based on their diet and lifestyle. Heart disease has been one of the leading causes of death in India for over two decades, along with an increasing propensity for cancer and diabetes.

India has made significant progress in reducing the number of vector-borne disease fatalities, but it remains a problem in many regions of the country. In 2020, the country recorded the highest number of malaria cases throughout the Asia Pacific region. Other life-threatening diseases that were prevalent in the country were dengue, typhoid, tuberculosis, and HIVAIDS.

1. Which of the following is true about the average life expectancy of India?

- 1. Average life expectancy of India is at its all time low
2. Average life expectancy of India is consistent since centuries now
3. Average life expectancy of India is consistently rising
4. Average life expectancy of India is the highest in Asia-Pacific region

2. What is the leading cause of death in India?

- 1. Tuberculosis 2. Diet and lifestyle
3. Cancer 4. Heart diseases

3. Which of the following diseases has not been prevalent in the country since a few years?

- 1. Malaria 2. Polio
3. Typhoid 4. Dengue

Passage



4. What is the main reason behind high undernourished people in India?

- 1. Frequent religious fasts
2. Low income family
3. Unhealthy eating habit
4. Genetic disorders

5. Which of the following is true according to the above passage?

- 1. India has the highest number of undernourished people across the globe
2. India is free of vector-borne diseases
3. India has the second largest population in the world
4. India is home to over 1.3 billion people

98. Based on the passage below choose the correct option for the following questions.

Americans are looking to get out of town after a year of virus-related travel restrictions. Figuring out where they can go and what will be open when they get there remain tricky—for both would-be tourists and travel companies. Signs that consumers are ready to travel again are growing, with rising searches for airfares and activity on booking sites. Travel companies are providing tools to help make sense of restrictions and spur bookings, but a hazy outlook for international trips suggests domestic destinations will see the strongest demand.

Diana Zucknick and her husband, Paul, visited 14 countries in the five years before Covid-19 caused them to hunker down at their Austin, Texas, home. Now that both are vaccinated, they are anxious to resume traveling. As they sat down to plan travel, Ms. Zucknick said, they pondered questions they hadn't considered before: Which countries will allow Americans in? Would they face a lengthy quarantine

or be putting others at risk? How safe are layovers? Hong Kong had been high on their list, she said, but the logistics of that trip amid current travel restrictions, including a 21-day quarantine requirement, seemed daunting. "There are so many variables," she said. "Everything is up in the air." Ms. Zucknick, 38 years old, has yet to make a booking. So far they have traveled only in Texas.

Market-research firm Air DNA, which tracks business on Airbnb Inc. and rival home-rental site Vrbo, said bookings made in the U.S. in February reached their highest monthly level since it began tracking the industry in 2015. Those figures included reservations for future stays.

1. Where have the Zuck nicks travelled post virus scare?

- 1. Within Texas 2. Australia
3. USA 4. Hongkong

2. The travel bookings were at highest monthly level in the U.S in the month of _____.

- 1. February 2. June 3. April 4. May

3. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?

- 1. Zucknicks have travelled to 14 countries in 5 years before covid
2. Americans are keen on resuming travel
3. Airbnb is the largest travel agency in the U.S
4. Zucknicks are based at Texas

4. What seemed daunting about travelling to Hongkong?

- 1. Long queues at the airport
2. 21-day long quarantine
3. Entry to Americans 4. Layovers

Passage



5. According to the passage, what is still tricky about resuming travel?

- 1. What to do in the long quarantine
2. What will be open when they reach the destination
3. Which travel agency to choose for bookings
4. Which mode of transport is safest

99. Read the following passage and answer the question.

Another feature of the post-Cold War era is that since the West has become the victor of the East-West ideological rivalry, Western systems and Western influences, in general, started to dominate the whole world. For example, the United States has visibly enhanced its influence in the Middle East and in Caucasus since the end of the Cold War. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990 and the following Gulf Crisis, in a way, created an opportunity for the

United States to exercise its hegemonic power in the Middle East. In the following years, in the absence of a counter-power, the influence of the United States increased further. With the military operation to Afghanistan and invasion of Iraq after the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States perpetuated its dominance in the region. The region of Caucasus was formerly under the Russian sphere of influence. But the United States managed to enter this energy-rich region with some new allies, used to be the part of the Soviet Union, such as Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Georgia. Although Russia certainly did not want the United States presence in the region, its ability to prevent it has remained limited. Likewise, NATO expanded to involve Eastern Europe, a region also used to be under Soviet influence. Russia, in the beginning, tried to resist NATO expansion, posing several threats, including creating a counter defense organization. But it was eventually convinced with the project of "partnership for peace", through which

it preserved many of its privileges in Eastern European countries.

1. Which of the following word is the SYNONYM of the word 'hegemonic' used in the passage?

- 1. Pall 2. Tire 3. Weary 4. Supremacy

2. According to the passage when did Iraq invaded Kuwait?

- 1. September 2011 2. September 1990
3. August 2011 4. August 1990

3. Which of the countries given in the options cannot fill in the blank based on the information given in the passage?

United States managed to enter this energy-rich region with some new allies, used to be the part of the Soviet Union, such as _____.

- 1. Georgia 2. Ukraine 3. Iraq 4. Azerbaijan

4. Which of the following statement is correct on basis of the given passage?

- 1. Russia has visibly enhanced its influence in the Middle East and in Caucasus since the end of the Cold War.
2. Russia certainly wanted the United States presence in the Caucasus region.
3. East has become the victor of the East-West ideological rivalry post the cold war.
4. Western systems and Western influences, in general, started to dominate the whole world after the cold war

5. Which of the following can be a suitable title of the given passage?

- 1. Gulf Crisis 2. Western domination
3. NATO and allies 4. Caucasus History

Passage



100. Based on the passage BELOW choose the correct option for the following questions.

Wildlife and nature have largely been associated with humans for numerous emotional and social reasons. A simple stroll around the park amidst some birds provides a fresh breath of life and charges our batteries. Apart from a bird feeder in the backyard, we can also take up other active pastimes, such as hiking, hunting, canoeing or wildlife photographing to relieve our parched nerves. Since prehistoric times, animals have been highly useful to us in providing food, clothing and source of income.

Studies indicate that woodpeckers are capable of destroying 90% of codling moth larvae residing under the bark of trees. This shows the significance of wildlife and wildlife habitat for preserving genetic diversity. Hence, places where agriculture, forests, and fisheries depend on crops or stocks can ensure that such living resources are enough to withstand the ever - increasing list of threats. Further, in medicine, development of new drugs and treatments are largely dependent on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Interestingly, most pharmaceutical products are a result of discovering or developing wildlife species and not discoveries through the traditional chemistry principles. Today, most medicinal remedies contain at least one ingredient derived from a wild plant or animal.

Biodiversity is the different variety of living beings within an ecosystem or in our planet. It is a measurement on the health of ecosystems. Biodiversity also take part in the function of climate. In terrestrial habitats, tropical areas are rich in species whereas polar areas support lesser species. The conservation of biodiversity is inevitable for the survival of men

1. Wildlife has helped humans in all aspects except?

- 1. Clothing 2. Development of new medicines

- 3. Education 4. Providing food

2. What does the passage says about Woodpeckers?

- 1. Are capable of destroying 90% of codling moth larvae residing under the bark of trees
2. Make a good muse for wildlife photography
3. They provide you a fresh breath of air
4. They like to live in Tropical areas where there is less human population

3. Biodiversity is _____.

- 1. Associated with humans for numerous reasons
2. Rich in species
3. Inevitable for the survival of men
4. Different variety of living beings within an ecosystem

4. Which of the following cannot be taken up as a pastime related to wildlife?

- 1. Hiking 2. Hunting
3. Bird feeding
4. Writing

5. According to the passage, which of the following statement is true?

- 1. Most medicinal remedies contain at least one ingredient derived from a wild plant or animal
2. Wildlife habitat plays no role in preserving genetic diversity
3. Since prehistoric times, animals have been not been useful to us
4. Biodiversity is a measurement on the cultural ecosystems

Passage



101. Read the following passage and answer the question.

In the years leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917, the country had a succession of wars. These were, The Crimean War, The Russo-Turkish War, The Russo-Japanese War and The World War I. All of these required a lot from the state, including tax dollars and manpower. Russia suffered defeat in all, except against Turkey. This series of war caused great discontent among the people and caused suffering in the country's economy and government.

Along with these wars, there were three major parties that contributed to the cause of the revolution. First, there were the peasants, who maintained the majority of the population in Russia. They were excessively poor and could barely escape famine from harvest to harvest.

The population boom in Russia from 1867-1896 was felt most drastically by the peasants. The increase of 30 million people in less than 30 years was too great that the land to the peasants' disposal did not increase sufficiently. The government tried to help, but war took precedence.

Second, there was a rise of the industrial working class. These workers were employed in the mines, factories and workshops of the major cities. They suffered low wages, poor housing and many accidents. Again, the government tried to help by passing factory acts to restrict the number of hours one could work. However, their efforts were at too small a scale to have any real effect. As a result, there were many strikes and constant conflicts between the workers and the police. Lastly, the tsar of Russia was the cause of much disapproval. Tsar Nicholas II was much more interested in his family life, than matters of the state. He had an obsession with retaining all his privileges and the belief that he was chosen by God to rule. Also, he didn't

understand the forces of industrialization and nationalism that were growing throughout

Russia. His disregard for the struggles of the people led them to lose faith in him and the longstanding tradition of autocracy. The people were not content and were ready to revolt. They just needed a good reason and a strong leader.

1. Which of the following word is the ANTONYM of the word 'precedence' used in the passage?

- 1. Orders
- 2. Sequences
- 3. Disruptions
- 4. Successions

2. Which of the following can be a suitable title for the given passage?

- 1. The industrial working class
- 2. The Russian Revolution
- 3. Shortcomings of Tsar Nicholas II
- 4. The Wars Russia Fought

3. On basis of the information given in the passage, which of following statement is NOT correct?

- 1. Tsar Nicholas II was much more interested in matters of the state than his family life.
- 2. Peasants maintained the majority of the population in Russia.
- 3. There was a population boom in Russia from 1867-1896.
- 4. The series of war caused great discontent among the people and caused suffering in the Russia's economy and government.

4. Fill in the blank on the basis of the passage.

Tsar Nicholas II has a belief that he was chosen by _____ to rule.

- 1. priest
- 2. people
- 3. ancestors
- 4. god

Passage



5. Which of the following wars have not been mentioned in the passage?

- 1. The Russo-Chinese War
2. The Russo-Turkish War
3. The Russo-Japanese War
4. The Crimean War

102. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Key factors influencing subway air pollution will include station depth, date of construction, type of ventilation (natural/air conditioning), types of brakes (electromagnetic or conventional brake pads) and wheels (rubber or steel) used on the trains, train frequency and more recently the presence or absence of platform screen-door systems.

In particular, much subway particulate matter is sourced from moving train parts such as wheels and brake pads, as well as from the steel rails and power-supply materials, making the particles dominantly iron-containing. To date, there is no clear epidemiological indication of abnormal health effects on underground workers and commuters. New York subway workers have been exposed to such air without significant observed impacts on their health, and no increased risk of lung cancer was found among subway train drivers in the Stockholm subway system. But a note of caution is struck by the observations of scholars who found that employees working on the platforms of Stockholm underground, where PM concentrations were greatest, tended to have higher levels of risk markers for cardiovascular disease than ticket sellers and train drivers.

The dominantly ferrous particles are mixed with particles from a range of other sources, including rock ballast from the track, biological aerosols such as bacteria and viruses, and air from the outdoors, and driven through the tunnel system on turbulent air

currents generated by the trains themselves and ventilation systems.

1. Inferring from passage, what is the most practical way of reducing the health risk of subway life?

- 1. Generating ventilation systems
2. Opting for other transportation modes
3. Wearing face masks during journey
4. Reducing subway commutation

2. What is the passage about?

- 1. Metro life and the subway facilities
2. The benefits of subway life
3. The risky life in the subways
4. Pollution created by the railroad

3. Which of the following diseases is found commonly among workers in underground subways?

- 1. Abdominal
2. Renal
3. Cardiovascular
4. Pulmonary.

4. Select the most suitable word from the passage which means 'not covered or hidden'.

- 1. Turbulent
2. Sourced
3. Exposed
4. Abnormal

5. What is the tone of the speaker?

- 1. Pessimistic
2. Informal
3. Serious
4. Joyful

103.. Read the following passage and answer the question.

The narrator of this story is a 12-year-old girl who has gone to London with her mother to visit the dentist. The girl has a tooth filled, and then she and her

Passage



mother go to a café afterwards. When it's time to go home, they discover that it's pouring rain and they have no umbrella. They decide to get a taxi. While they're watching for a cab, an old gentleman sheltering under an umbrella approaches them. He asks for a favor. The girl's mother is very distrustful of strange men. The old man explains that he has forgotten his wallet and would like to sell them his umbrella in return for taxi fare back to his home. He explains that it's a very nice silk umbrella worth twenty pounds, but his legs are weak and he simply must take a taxi home.

The mother likes the sound of the deal, but the little girl worries that they're taking advantage of the old man. The mother offers to simply give him the cab fare, but he insists that they take the umbrella. The transaction is made and everyone is happy. As the mother is proudly explaining the importance of correctly judging people, the daughter notices that the old man has quickly crossed the street and is hurrying away. "He doesn't look very tired to me," she said. The mother is displeased. "He's up to something." They decide to follow him and find out. They quickly follow him as he rushes through the rainy streets. Eventually they find themselves at a pub called "The Red Lion" and watch through the window as the old man enters and uses the pound note to pay for a triple whiskey.

1. Where has the narrator of story gone visit a dentist?

- 1. London
- 2. York
- 3. Liverpool
- 4. Bristol

2. What is the name of the pub where the old man went after taking money from the mother and daughter?

- 1. The Lion's Share
- 2. Club Lion
- 3. The White Tiger
- 4. The Red Lion

3. Which of the following can be suitable title for the passage?

- 1. A visit to dentist
- 2. The curious old man
- 3. A rainy day
- 4. Pubs of London

4. According to the passage, which of the following statement is correct?

- 1. Mother gave only the cab fare and did not took the umbrella in return.
- 2. Old man was selling them a silk umberlla worth one pounds.
- 3. When mother and girl decided to go home they had no umbrella.
- 4. The old man used the pound note give by the girls mother to take the taxi home.

5. Which of the following word is the ANTONYM of the word 'distrustful' used in the passage?

- 1. Cynical
- 2. Leery
- 3. Cautious
- 4. Ingenuous

104. Read the following passage and answer the question.

An earthquake is what happens when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another. The surface where they slip is called the fault or fault plane. The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the hypocenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the epicenter. Sometimes an earthquake has foreshocks. These are smaller earthquakes that happen in the same place as the larger earthquake that follows. Scientists can't tell that an earthquake is a foreshock until the larger earthquake happens. The largest, main earthquake is called the mainshock. Mainshocks always have aftershocks that follow. These are smaller earthquakes that occur afterwards in the same place as the

Passage



mainshock. Depending on the size of the mainshock, aftershocks can continue for weeks, months, and even years after the mainshock!

The earth has four major layers: the inner core, outer core, mantle and crust. The crust and the top of the mantle make up a thin skin on the surface of our planet. But this skin is not all in one piece – it is made up of many pieces like a puzzle covering the surface of the earth. Not only that, but these puzzle pieces keep slowly moving around, sliding past one another and bumping into each other. We call these puzzle pieces tectonic plates, and the edges of the plates are called the plate boundaries. The plate boundaries are made up of many faults, and most of the earthquakes around the world occur on these faults. Since the edges of the plates are rough, they get stuck while the rest of the plate keeps moving.

Finally, when the plate has moved far enough, the edges unstick on one of the faults and there is an earthquake.

1. What can be the suitable title of the passage?

- 1. All about earthquakes 2. Fault plates
3. Layers of earth
4. Mainshock and aftershocks

2. Which of the following word is the ANTONYM of the word 'boundaries' used in the passage?

- 1. Cores 2. Verges
3. Rims 4. Brinks

3. According to the passage what is the location of the start of earthquake directly above it on the surface of the earth is called?

- 1. Epicentre 2. Centroid
3. Hypocenter 4. Orthocentre

4. According to the passage which of the following statement is NOT correct?

- 1. The crust and the top of the mantle make up a thin skin on the surface of our planet.
2. Earth has 3 major layers.
3. Depending on the size of the mainshock, aftershocks can continue for weeks, months, and even years.
4. Sometimes an earthquake has foreshocks

5. On basis of the passage, fill in the blanks in the following sentence.

The plate boundaries are made up of many _____.

- 1. crusts 2. faults
3. spaces 4. cores

105. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

When times are hard, doomsayers are aplenty. The problem is that if you listen to them too carefully, you tend to overlook the most obvious signs of change. The year 2011 was bad. Can 2012 be any worse? Doomsday forecasts are the easiest to make these days. So, let's try a contrarian's forecast instead. Let's start with the global economy. We have soon a steady flow of good news from the US. The employment situation seems to be improving rapidly, and consumer sentiment, reflected in retail expenditures on discretionary items like electronics and clothes, has picked up.

If these trends sustain, the US might post better growth numbers for 2012 than the current forecast of 1.5%–1.8%. Japan is likely to pull out of a recession in 2012, as post-earthquake reconstruction efforts gather momentum and the fiscal stimulus announced in 2011 begins to pay off. The consensus estimate for growth in Japan is a respectable 2% for 2012. The 'hardlanding' scenario for China remains

Passage



and will remain a myth. Growth might decelerate further from the 9% that it is expected to clock in 2011 but is unlikely to drop below 8%–8.5% in 2012.

Europe is certainly in a spot of trouble. It is perhaps already in recession, and for 2012, it is likely to post mildly negative growth. The risk of implosion has dwindled over the last few months—peripheral economies like Greece, Italy and Spain have new governments in place and have made progress towards genuine economic reform.

Even with some of these positive factors in place, we have to accept the fact that global growth in 2012 will be tepid. But there is a flipside to this. Softer growth means lower demand for commodities, and this is likely to drive a correction in commodity prices. Lower commodity inflation will enable emerging market and central banks to reverse their monetary stance. China, for instance, has already reversed its stance and has pared its reserve ratio twice. The RBI also seems poised for a reversal in its rate cycle as headline inflation seems well on its way to its target of 7% for March 2012.

1. Why is Europe in a 'spot of trouble'?

- A. Europe is already going through a phase of recession, which will escalate further in 2012.
B. Europe has reversed its strategies and has decreased the ratio of its reserves twice.
C. Europe is still recovering from the after effects of the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts.
D. Europe has increased the price of its commodities manifold as compared with that in the earlier years.

2. What may be regarded as a positive aspect of the 2012 US economy as mentioned in the passage?

- A. A new government which is making progress in economic reforms

- B. Steady improvement in the employment scenario
C. Doomsayers' positive reports on US economy
D. Consumers are no more ready to waste money on discretionary items.

3. Which word in the passage means 'relating to government revenue, especially taxes'?

- A. Retail B. Fiscal C. Forecasts D. Recession

4. Choose the correct tone of the passage from the options given below.

- A. Humorous B. Analytical
C. Negative D. Farcical

5. Choose the appropriate central theme of the passage from the options given below.

- A. A comparative study of the 2011 and 2012 global economy
B. A deep analysis of the 2012 global economy
C. Negative aspects of the 2012 global economy
D. Comparisons among different countries' 2012 global economic scenario

106. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

My Uncle Wilbur used to spend hours every day checking on the lightning rods that stood guard on the roof of his house. We get a lot of storms here in our state. Sometimes, we see wind up to sixty miles per hour and baseball-size hail. Lightning, Uncle Wilbur would say, is a living thing, and like a cat, it will strike anything that moves. You'd better not tempt it, he always told us. He advised my cousins and me to always be mindful of the nearest sheltering tree. He said we should be prepared to drop to the ground like a hot potato at the first sound of thunder. Knowing that lightning is attracted to the tallest thing around, Uncle Wilbur worried constantly

Passage



about my cousin Jared, who, at sixteen, was 6'2" and still growing.

Uncle Wilbur did not take kindly to the power company man who came knocking one day in 1936. This was the year the government launched a campaign to bring electricity to rural areas like ours. Most people, like Uncle Wilbur, were a little wary of having electricity in their homes. Many of us had running water, and we just weren't sure that the two mixed. Nevertheless, Uncle Wilbur was downright floored when the man said he wanted to string power lines up to the house. Nearly losing his temper, Uncle Wilbur exclaimed, "Here I am doing everything in my power to keep from getting struck by lightning, and you want to bring it right to my doorstep?" He sent the man on his way with a "No, thank you," and a "Good day, sir," but in the months that followed, we all eventually relented and let in the light. I must admit, playing checkers in the dark is a talent you can easily lose without daily practice.

1. The given passage is:

- A. a discursive passage
- B. an article
- C. a character sketch
- D. an autobiographical piece

2. Which of the following was NOT an advice given by Uncle Wilbur to safeguard against lightning?

- A. Climb up to the tallest structure
- B. Drop down on the floor
- C. Be mindful of the nearest tree
- D. Do not move around

3. Select the most appropriate meaning of 'relented' as used in the passage.

- A. To give away
- B. To give off
- C. To give in
- D. To give out

4. Uncle Wilbur was against having electricity in the house because:

- A. he was worried that Jared would be at a risk
- B. he enjoyed playing checkers in the dark
- C. he believed it was as dangerous as lightning
- D. he thought the supply of water would stop

5. Why did Uncle Wilbur say that lightning is a living thing?

- A. It is attracted towards tall things.
- B. One can easily tempt it.
- C. One needs to guard against it.
- D. It can strike like a cat anytime

107.. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

A person who takes the trouble to form his own opinions and beliefs will feel that he owes no responsibility to the majority for his conclusions. If he is a genuine lover of truth, if he is inspired by a passion for seeing things as they are and an abhorrence of holding ideas which do not conform to facts, he will be wholly independent of the assent of those around him. When he proceeds to apply his beliefs in the practical conduct of life, the position is different. There are then good reasons why his attitude should be less inflexible. The society in which he is placed is an ancient and composite growth. The people from whom he dissents have not come by their opinions, customs and by a process of a mere haphazard way.

These opinions and customs all had their origin in a certain real supposed fitness. They have certain depth of root in the lives of a proportion of the existing generation. Their congruity with one another may have come to an end. That is only one side of the truth. The most zealous propagandism cannot

Passage



penetrate to them. In common language, we speak of a generation as something possessed of a kind of exact unity, with all its parts and members homogenous.

Yet, plainly, it is not this. It is a whole but a whole in a state of constant flux; its factors and elements are eternally shifting. It is not one but many generations. Each of the seven ages of man is neighbour to all the rest. The column of the veterans is already sinking into the last abyss, while the column of the newest recruits is forming to each its tradition, its tendency and its possibilities. Only a proportion of each can have nerve enough to grasp the banner of a new truth and endurance to bear it along rugged and untrodden ways. Thus, we must remember the stuff of which life is made.

1. Select the most appropriate central theme of the passage from the options given below.

- A. The requirement of flexibility in an individual's thinking
- B. The importance of following age-old traditions and customs
- C. Individual beliefs vis-à-vis established opinions and customs
- D. Differences in the thinking of individuals of different ages

2. Which word in the passage means 'of the same kind'?

- A. Unity B. Flux C. Whole D. Homogenous

3. Which word in the passage means 'having a broken, rocky and uneven surface'?

- A. Untrodden B. Haphazard
- C. Rugged D. Congruity

4. What is the author's opinion on the homogeneity of a generation?

- A. There is nothing called a generation. Life is a miracle, and each one of us is living our own individual life. The very idea of generation itself is a myth.
- B. The older generation of people had several similarities in their opinions and beliefs, but the younger generation does not have that.
- C. Every generation has too many differences and in that sense, there is no similarity among its members.
- D. Even though it seems that a generation is similar in all aspects, and in that sense, static in its beliefs, but in reality, it is undergoing continuous changes.

5. What is the author's opinion on people who "have nerve enough"?

- A. Such people exist only among the youngsters who have the nerve to go against established norms, whereas, in the case of veterans they are stuck to age-old customs.
- B. Such people existed only in the past in large numbers, but at present we do not see such individuals at all who have the guts to stand by their beliefs.
- C. Such people are homogenous with the customs being followed in their communities from generations together and have the nerve to abide by the same.
- D. Such people are very small in number, but they alone have the guts to move out of the established norms and take their beliefs forward amidst difficulties.

Passage



108. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The stamp is to many people just a slip of paper that takes a letter from one town of the country to another. They are unable to understand why we stamp collectors find so much pleasure in collecting them and how we find the time in which to indulge in our hobby. To them, it seems a waste of time, a waste of effort and a waste of money. But they do not realise that there are many who do buy stamps, many who find the effort worthwhile and many who, if they did not spend their time collecting stamps, would spend it less profitably.

We all seek something to do in our leisure hours, and what better occupation is there to keep us out of mischief than that of collecting stamps? An album, a packet of hinges and a new supply of stamps in the time pass swiftly and pleasantly. Stamp collecting has no limits, and a collection never has ended. Countries are always printing and issuing new stamps to celebrate coronations, great events, anniversaries and deaths, and the fascination of collecting is trying to obtain the stamps before one's rivals.

Every sphere of stamp collecting has its fascination with receiving letters from distant countries and discovering old stamps in the leaves of dusty old books. The stamp itself has a fascination all its own. Gazing at its little picture, we are transported to the wilds of Congo, the homes of the Arabs and the endless tracks of the Sahara Desert. There is a history in every stamp of the ancient Roman empire and the constitution of America. India's Independence and the allied victory are all conveyed to our mind's eye by means of stamps. We see famous men, pictures of writers, soldiers, politicians, and famous incidents on stamps so small and minute containing knowledge that is vast and important.

1. What is the main reason for collecting stamps?

- A. Helps instruct the collector in geography, history, culture and art
- B. To keep us busy
- C. To pass away the time swiftly and pleasantly
- D. To help in supplying stamps

2. Choose the option that best suits the title of the passage.

- A. Supply of stamps
- B. Occupation of mischief
- C. Stamp collecting
- D. History of stamps

3. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Swiftly

- A. continuously
- B. Briskly
- C. Successively
- D. Steadily

4. Which of the following inferences drawn about this passage is wrong?

- A. There is a history in every stamp.
- B. Stamps could be a disorderly market because they have no intrinsic value.
- C. The fascination of collecting is trying to obtain these stamps before one's rivals.
- D. Stamp collection is more than just a hobby for many people.

5. On what occasions are stamps printed and issued?

- A. While receiving letters
- B. To acknowledge any incident not so worthy
- C. While printing notes
- D. To celebrate coronations and great events

Passage



109. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow

The northern lights are an atmospheric phenomenon that's regarded as the Holy Grail of skywatching. The northern lights, or the aurora borealis, are beautiful dancing waves of light that have captivated people for millennia. But for all its beauty, this spectacular light show is a rather violent event. Energised particles from the sun slam into Earth's upper atmosphere at speeds of up to 45 million mph (72 million kph), but our planet's magnetic field protects us from the onslaught.

As Earth's magnetic field redirects the particles towards the poles, there are southern lights too; the dramatic process transforms into a cinematic atmospheric phenomenon that dazzles and fascinates scientists and skywatchers alike. Though it was an Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei who coined the name 'aurora borealis' in 1619-after the Roman goddess of dawn, Aurora, and the Greek god of the north wind, Boreas-the earliest suspected record of the northern lights is in a 30,000-year-old cave painting in France. Since that time, civilisations around the world have marvelled at the celestial phenomenon, ascribing all sorts of origin myths to the dancing lights. One North American Inuit legend suggests that the northern lights are spirits playing ball with a walrus head, while the Vikings thought the phenomenon was light reflecting off the armour of the Valkyrie, the supernatural maidens who brought warriors into the afterlife.

Early astronomers also mentioned the northern lights in their records. A royal astronomer under Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar II inscribed his report of the phenomenon on a tablet dated 567 BC, for example, while a Chinese report from 193 BC also notes the aurora, according to NASA.

The science behind the northern lights wasn't theorised until the turn of the 20th century.

Norwegian scientist Kristian Birkeland proposed that electrons emitted from sunspots produced atmospheric lights after being guided towards the poles by Earth's magnetic field. The theory would eventually prove correct but not until long after Birkeland's death in 1917.

1. Choose the correct summary of the passage from the options given below.

A. The passage discusses in length about the way that the nomenclature of northern lights was decided upon. It traces mythology, legends, the period of various rulers and recent day scientists to arrive at this fact. The passage further throws light on the way that Galileo decided to name the northern lights 'aurora borealis' because of pressure from the Greeks.

B. The passage highlights the scientific process involved in the phenomenon of the northern lights. It traces the way that the alternate name of the phenomenon came into being. The passage further throws light on the earliest records of the northern lights as well as the myths, legends and scientific theories associated with it.

C. The passage explains how Galileo was the first scientist to present the theory behind the phenomenon of the northern lights, which until then was shrouded in mystery and given a mythological base. The great scientist's theory was refuted during his lifetime but was eventually accepted posthumously.

D. The passage explains the myths and legends related to the phenomenon of the northern lights. It highlights the contribution of NASA in ascribing the origin myth of this amazing celestial phenomenon, which was later carried forward by North American scientists who created various myths and legends to prove their perspectives.

Passage



2. Choose the most appropriate central theme of the passage from the options given below.

- A. The northern lights and the southern lights
B. Mythology related to the northern lights
C. Various facets of the northern lights
D. Kristian Birkeland's discovery

3. Which is the earliest record of the northern lights as per the information given in the passage?

- A. Kristian's Birkeland's proposal
B. A North American Inuit legend
C. A cave painting in France
D. Galileo Galilei's discovery

4. Which word in the passage means 'brightness that blinds someone temporarily'?

- A. Transforms B. Dazzles
C. Fascinates D. Inscribed

5. Which of the following options gives an accurate idea of the fact that the phenomenon of the northern lights was recorded in ancient human history?

- A. Reports showcasing the phenomenon as a violent event
B. Reports from a Norwegian scientist
C. Reports given by Galileo Galilei
D. Reports from astronomers in the pre-Christian era

110.. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Ganga river cruise from Varanasi on Friday, 13 January 2022. The 51-day cruise, being pitched as the world's longest river cruise, is expected to reach its final destination — Dibrugarh in Assam — on 1 March.

"The beginning of the world's longest river cruise service on river Ganga is a landmark moment. It will herald a new age of tourism in India," the Prime Minister said while flagging off the cruise virtually via video conference. He added that the cruise service will boost tourism and create new job opportunities.

Set to sail from Varanasi, the cruise ship, MV Ganga Vilas, will cover 3,200 km over 51 days, crossing 27 river systems and several states before ending its journey at Dibrugarh. The voyage is packed with visits to 50 tourist spots, including World Heritage spots, national parks, river ghats, and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam. It will make pit-stops to cover the famous Ganga Arti in Varanasi, the Buddhist site of Sarnath; and even Majuli, the largest river island in Assam. The travellers will also visit the Bihar School Of Yoga and Vikramshila University. The cruise will traverse through the Sunderbans in the Bay of Bengal delta, as well as the Kaziranga National Park.

The vessel has three decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists, with all the luxury amenities. The maiden voyage has 32 tourists from Switzerland signing up for the entire length of the journey. While it will be managed by private operators, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), under the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways (MoPSW), has supported the project.

The operator has already planned MV Ganga Vilas's next voyage for the month of September this year, and bookings will open shortly. The tickets can be booked from the website of Antara river cruises.

1. MATCH THE FOLLOWING

NAME OF THE PLACE ITS SPECIAL FEATURE

- a.Sarnath 1.Ganga Aarti
b. Majuli 2.Buddhist site

Passage



- c. Varanasi 3.largest river island in assam
- A. a-3, b-1, c-2 B. a-2, b-1, c-3
- C. a-1, b-3, c-2 D. a-2, b-3, c-1

2. The word 'traverse' in the passage means all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. pass through B. travel over
- C. stay over D. cut across

3. Which agency is directly operating the Ganga River Cruise?

- A. The Antara River Cruises
- B. The Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
- C. The Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways
- D. The Inland Waterways Authority of India

4. What is the passage mainly about?

- A. The river tourism in India
- B. The starting of the Ganga River Cruise
- C. The sights to be seen during the river cruise
- D. The cruise ship called Ganga Vilas

5. After reading the passage it can be inferred that it is:

- A. a Government press release
- B. a news article
- C. an advertisement for the river cruise
- D. a Program schedule of the cruise

111. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

There is a market failure in cyber security. Solutions being suggested or tried include increasing transparency about data losses, helping consumers and firms to make more informed decisions about cyber security, shedding more light on how Internet

Service Providers (ISPs) tackle malware infections they spot on customers' computers and using liability laws to force software companies to produce safer codes. On transparency, America has led the way. Almost all American States now have data-breach laws that require firms to reveal any loss of sensitive customer information. In Europe, telecom firms have been obliged to notify customers of breaches for some time now, and there are plans to extend reporting to a wider range of industries.

Breach laws have encouraged insurance companies to offer coverage against potential losses. This is helpful because they are in a position to gather and share information about best practices across a wide range of companies. A cyber insurer advises companies on defensive tactics and also on how to minimise the damage if something goes wrong. The American government should create a Cyber Security Board equivalent of the National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates serious accidents and shares information about them.

Such a body could look into all breaches that cost over \$50 m and make sure the lessons are shared widely. But insurers are likely to remain wary of taking on broader risks because the costs associated with a serious cyber accident could be astronomical. Insurers can deal with acts of God but not acts of anonymous hacking groups or acts of state-sponsored hacking.

This explains why the overall cyber-insurance market is still small. Governments are weighing in, too, not least by supporting private-sector efforts to clean up botnets, or networks of compromised computers controlled by hackers. These networks, which are prevalent in countries such as America and China, can be used to launch attacks and spread malware.

1. Select the option that is the opposite of the word 'breach'.

- A. Transgression B. Contravention

Passage



C. Observance D. Noncompliance

2. Choose the most appropriate central theme of the passage from the options given below.

- A. Different types of cyber breaches
B. Preventive measures for cyber security breaches
C. Threats of cyber security breaches
D. America's lack of transparency on cyber security

3. Which word in the passage means 'not identified by name (of a person)'?

- A. Anonymous B. Transparency
C. Hacker D. Customers

4. What would be a good idea for a company to invest in to prevent cyber threats?

- A. Paying the Cyber Security Board \$50 m to prevent data breaches
B. Creating a National Transportation Safety Board in the company
C. Hiring anonymous hacking groups to spy on others
D. Hiring a cyber insurer to advise on defensive tactics

5. Which of the following is not a relevant solution for cyber security threats?

- A. Enforcing laws related to producing safer codes
B. Compelling ISPs to tackle malware infections
C. Making the cyber insurance market smaller
D. Creating more transparency about data losses

112. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Despite high education among women, the rate of women's employment is very low in India. According to data compiled by the World Bank, the number of

working women in India dropped from 24% to 18% between 2010 and 2020. Similarly, the India Discrimination Report 2022 released by Oxfam India states that women in India, despite possessing the same educational qualifications and work experience as men, will be discriminated against due to societal and employers' prejudices. Likewise, though India tops the world in producing female graduates in STEM, it ranks 19th in employing them. These numbers remain true across other fields as well. The wide gap between the number of women graduating every year and those entering the workspace is an issue of paramount importance that needs to be addressed. This article aims to critically analyse this challenge while looking at a possible way forward.

India's present gender gap in terms of literacy is more than twice the 2016 global average and even higher than that for lower-middle-income countries. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data, in 2017-18, a total of 186 million women in India cannot even write a simple sentence in any language. This statistic is a call for attention, showcasing that India is far from achieving the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)—'inclusive and equitable quality education' and 'lifelong learning opportunities for all'—by 2030.

1. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Derisive B. Condescending
C. Adulatory D. Analytical

2. Which statistical information is being referred to in the sentence 'This statistic is a call for attention, showcasing that India is far from achieving the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)'?

- A. The gender gap in education
B. Target set for women's education by 2030

Passage



- C. The lifelong learning opportunities
- D. The illiteracy of the women

3. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for this passage?

- A. New roles of women in society
- B. Women's education: progress through the ages
- C. Concerns about women's education and employment
- D. Challenges in women's status in the home

4. Which of the following can be inferred from this passage?

- A. Women prefer to study through non-formal modes
- B. More women are studying to be graduates
- C. Biases against women continue in the workplaces
- D. Women are struggling to learn how to write

5. Which of the following phrases suggests action to be taken

- A. Far from achieving
- B. Remain true across other fields
- C. Tops the world
- D. Way forward

113. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Maintaining a business infrastructure is an expensive task and your HVAC (Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system is a key part of these costs. But replacing an outdated system with new efficient units and advanced controls will benefit your organisation in many ways. On average, HVAC equipment accounts for upto 44% of a business' monthly energy expenditures. Immediate energy savings will be realised with a new efficient system. New systems use motors and compressors with less energy consumption than their counter parts designed and

manufactured a decade ago. Further savings will be seen with advanced variable frequency drives and energy management systems.

Natural resource conservation benefits us and our environment. New high-efficiency equipment and design strategies reduce overall energy consumption and environmental impact. Green HVAC systems save money and reduce environmental impact when designed, installed, and maintained properly. Programmable thermostats are a simple upgrade, allowing you to control the system based on time. In the summer, if your business is closed from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., set the programable thermostat cooling point higher. If the unit is not running, it will not use energy.

Greater savings will be seen with advanced designs and controls. Zoning systems allow one system to maintain different temperatures in different locations. Performance gains will be seen in both, process and employees. Maintaining proper coolant temperature in machining equipment will reduce tool wear and increase product quality. Worker performance will also increase. Employees are more productive without the added stress of an uncomfortable work environment. With ageing, systems and components wear out. Repairs will be needed. Before committing to a repair, it is advisable to compare the service cost versus the replacement cost. The replacement system's energy savings alone may pay for itself within a few years.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. It is always better to repair an old system rather than invest in a new one.
- B. HVAC equipment accounts for around 44% of monthly energy expenditure.
- C. It is beneficial to replace outdated systems.
- D. Zoning systems help to maintain different temperatures in different locations

Passage



2. In a business enterprise, the HVAC system adds to its:

- A. profit B. service C. prestige D. expense

3. What is the function of programmable thermostats?

- A. to make the environment comfortable for employees
B. to adjust heating and cooling according to time
C. to improve the quality of products
D. to reduce wear and tear of machines

4. The greatest benefit to the environment can come from:

- A. proper maintenance of old equipment
B. repairing of worn out components
C. maintaining optimum temperature
D. reduction in energy consumption

5. What inference can be drawn from the passage?

- A. No business can be successful without a HVAC equipment.
B. Installing energy management systems is very expensive.
C. Performance of employees depends only on work environment.
D. Efficient energy saving systems should be adopted

114. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Sherpas are extraordinary human beings. In the high peaks of the Himalayas, members of the Nepalese ethnic group are famous for their speed-climbing records, ascents of routes that no one has ascended before, expert guiding and other skills. They may be better at harnessing oxygen than the rest of us,

suggests a new study. The Sherpas and other ethnic groups have lived on the high plateau of the Himalayas at an average altitude of more than 14,700 feet going back at least 6,000 years. But life at such high altitudes remains inhospitable for most of us.

People from low altitudes who travel or move to higher elevations face multiple risks: with access to limited oxygen above 8,000 feet or so, symptoms often include headaches, low appetite and trouble sleeping. Severe cases of mountain sickness can cause swelling in the brain, a condition called High Altitude Cerebral Edema, or fluid in the lungs, called High Altitude Pulmonary Edema. Both conditions can quickly become deadly.

So how do the Sherpas do it? Over thousands of years, the bodies of high-altitude dwellers have developed ways to make the most of oxygen, says Andrew Murray, a physiologist at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and one of the study's authors. When most of us climb, a hormone in our bodies called erythropoietin (EPO) triggers the production of more red blood cells, which can then carry more oxygen to our muscles. But the extra cells also thicken our blood, which puts extra stress on the heart to pump it and can cause symptoms of altitude sickness. Sherpas increase their red blood cell count at altitude, too, but not nearly as much as people from lower down do.

It was in the muscles of the Sherpas, the study found, that the cells' mitochondria (the energy producing parts) converted more oxygen into energy. "The Sherpas' mitochondria were less leaky and therefore more efficient than the Westerners' mitochondria," Murray says. "They were better at using oxygen." The Sherpas were also able to produce more energy without any oxygen at all, a process called anaerobic metabolism.

Passage



1. "They may be better at harnessing oxygen." Here the word 'harnessing' means all the following

EXCEPT:

- A. liberating B. utilising C. exploiting D. mobilising

2. Select the option that contains that correct sequence of events in the body that can cause high altitude sickness.

- a. Red blood cells carry more oxygen to our muscles but the extra cells thicken our blood. b. Erythropoietin hormone in the body activates the production of more red blood cells. c. Our heart gets stressed in pumping the thickened blood.

- A. cba B. bac C. abc D. bca

3. Identify whether the given statements are true or false.

- A. Sherpas are able to produce more energy without any oxygen at all. B. In the muscles of Sherpas the cells' mitochondria converts more oxygen into energy than it does in the muscles of low altitude people.

- A. A is false and B is true. B. Both A and B are true but B is not the correct reason for A. C. Both A and B are true and B is the correct reason for A. D. A is true and B is false

4. The passage is about all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. how we can make our bodies like that of Sherpas B. how Sherpas are able to live normally at a height of 14,700 ft

- C. how Sherpas are able to climb speedily without getting tired D. what problems may the low altitude people suffer at high altitudes

5. Which of the following problems can prove to be fatal for low altitude people when they climb to higher altitudes?

- A. Low appetite B. Trouble in sleeping C. Swelling in brain D. Headaches

115. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Toda is a pastoral tribe of the Nilgiri Hills of southern India. Numbering only about 800 in the early 1960s, they were rapidly increasing in population because of improved health facilities. The Toda language is Dravidian but is the most aberrant of that linguistic stock.

The Toda live in settlements of from three to seven small thatched houses scattered over the pasture slopes; built on a wooden framework, the typical house has an arched roof in the shape of a half barrel. The Toda traditionally trade dairy products, as well as cane and bamboo articles, with the other Nilgiri peoples, receiving Badaga grain and cloth and Kota tools and pottery in exchange. Kurumba jungle people play music for Toda funerals and supply various forest products.

Toda religion centers on the all-important buffalo. Ritual must be performed for almost every dairy activity, from milking and giving the herds salt to churning butter and shifting pastures seasonally. There are ceremonies for the ordination of dairymen-priests, for rebuilding dairies, and for rethatching funerary temples. These rites and the complex funeral rituals are the major occasions of social intercourse, when intricate poetic songs alluding to the buffalo cult are composed and chanted.

Passage



Polyandry is fairly common; several men, usually brothers, may share one wife.

1. The passage appears to be a part of a/an _____.

- A. survey report B. tourist guide C. newspaper article D. encyclopedia entry

2. Which word can best replace the word 'aberrant' in the passage?

- A. Deviant B. Exclusive C. Weird D. Abnormal

3. The most appropriate title for the passage is:

- A. The Tribal Community B. The Dravidian Culture C. The Todas of the Nilgiris D. Ancient Tribes of India

4. What is the most important ritual of the Todas?

- A. Trading with other tribes B. The dairy activity C. Constructing thatched houses D. Singing folk songs

5. Which of the following inferences does the passage NOT support?

- A. The Todas continue to have poor health and longevity B. Toda houses are made in the shape of half barrels C. The buffalo plays an important in Toda villages. D. The barter system was clearly prevalent.

116. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

From his childhood, Gandhi, nicknamed Moniya, was a playful character. Moniya was fond of playing out of doors, came home only when he felt hungry and disappeared as soon as he had had some food.

Nothing could curb his irrepressible energy. His father's presence had some restraining effect, but the moment Kaba's back was turned, he would begin turning everything in the house upside down. Although 'a difficult and self-willed child' insisting on 'having his way always', Moniya grew up to be a boy of 'a very peaceful disposition' and became 'very simple in his habits and tastes'.

He was adept at hide-and-seek and moi-dandiyo. Sometimes he used to take part in cricket or some such games. There were some physical culture appliances at home. Occasionally, he exercised with these or went out for a drive in his father's horse-carriage. His favourite exercise and recreation were long walks. About a furlong from the house in which Moniya lived, there used to be a chowk, known as Shitala Chowk. On moonlit nights, parties of Hindu and Muslim boys assembled there from different quarters of the city and played games for an hour or so after dinner. Moniya also used to go there but he had a temperamental dislike for boisterous games. He did not participate in them but loved to officiate as umpire and saw to it that the rules of the game were strictly observed by those who engaged in them. If anyone played foul, he would politely but firmly put him out of the field.

1. Why did Gandhi love to play the role of an umpire?

- A. He loved to ensure that the no one flouted the rules. B. He wanted to remain friends with everyone. C. He hated boisterous games. D. He wanted to control the game

2. Which of the following words can replace the word 'boisterous' in the passage?

- A. Rowdy B. Physical C. Manly D. Complicated

Passage



3. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the passage?

- A. Gandhi was a stickler for rules.
- B. As Gandhi grew a bit older, there was a change in Gandhi's behaviour.
- C. Gandhi avoided all physical activities.
- D. Gandhi's father was a bit strict.

4. Which of the following best summarises the passage?

- A. It describes how Gandhi transitioned from being a mischievous child to a calm young man.
- B. It explains why Gandhi was a stickler for truth from childhood.
- C. It talks about Gandhi's childhood memories and his nickname.
- D. It details Gandhi's anecdotes from his interesting childhood.

5. What is the central theme of this passage?

- A. Gandhi's childhood
- B. Gandhi's family
- C. Gandhi's life
- D. Gandhi's social circle

117. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

A key aspect of wildlife species conservation is the protection of their natural habitats. Once the home where wildlife can survive and reproduce is lost, saving species becomes a humongous task. Restoring habitats over large areas is very expensive and almost impossible, especially for species that need big spaces. It could be the cheetah, tiger, elephant, rhino, lion-tailed macaque, whales or sea

turtles, the picture for some species remains the same — they need vast contiguous spaces.

India is now at a critical juncture when the priority is to achieve ever-higher levels of economic growth. To achieve this economic aspiration, we have ignored that saving natural habitats is mandatory, rather than a luxury. Words like 'sustainable development', 'sustainable use' have ended up being mere buzzwords. Laws that were cornerstones of conservation have been weakened under the pretext that they need to be 'development-friendly'. Those responsible for the loss of wildlife habitats are rarely brought to justice.

Worldwide, another aspect that leads to the extinction of species is the direct extermination of species for trade or consumption. With the increasing human population and growing wealth, the demand for body parts or meat of certain wildlife species is on the rise. The killing of animals must be curtailed through a combination of law enforcement and education. The loss of one species can have a chain reaction, leading to the loss of other plants and animals or even the collapse of the entire ecosystem.

1. The priority of our country seems to be:

- A. economic growth
- B. population growth
- C. saving wildlife
- D. increasing animal trade

2. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

- A. Saving natural habitats is compulsory, rather than a luxury.
- B. Laws on conservation should be strictly enforced.
- C. Loss of one species may have an adverse effect on others.
- D. Poaching of certain species is for the purpose of conservation.

Passage



3. 'Humongous' as used in the passage means:

- A. enormous
- B. inhuman
- C. expensive
- D. sustainable

4. It may become impossible to save a species if:

- A. its natural habitat is destroyed
- B. enough money is not spent on it
- C. poachers are not punished
- D. human population grows rapidly

5. Which of the following species can survive in small habitats?

- A. Rhino
- B. Fish
- C. Whale
- D. Elephant

118. Read the following passage and answer the given questions:

On 5 January, two days ahead of the Russian Orthodox Christmas, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia called on 'all parties' involved in the 10-month-old Ukraine war to establish a Christmas truce. Within hours, the Kremlin declared a unilateral ceasefire from Friday noon through Saturday midnight along the entire frontline. Whether the Kremlin listened to the Patriarch or the Patriarch called for what the Kremlin wanted, the incident, once again, showed the close relationship between the church and the officially secular state in Russia.

The day before Russian President Vladimir Putin announced his special military operation on 24 February 2022, Patriarch Kiril, 76, hailed Russian troops as 'defenders of the fatherland'. Weeks after the invasion began, he said the conflict had 'meta-physical significance' for both Russians and Ukrainians. 'We are talking about human salvation.'

The Patriarch's comments were hardly surprising. Ever since his anointing as the Patriarch by the Holy Synod, a council of bishops, in 2009, he has largely taken positions that are aligned with the Kremlin's

interests. He supported Russia's intervention in Syria in 2015. He also backed Russia's policies towards eastern Ukraine where the crisis broke out in 2014

1. Identify the tone of the passage.

- A. Critical
- B. Humorous
- C. Analytical
- D. Bitter

2. Which of the following is not a fact cited in the passage?

- A. The council of bishops is called 'Holy Synod'.
- B. Patriarch Kirill is part of the Russian Orthodox Church.
- C. Vladimir Putin is the President of Russia.
- D. Vladimir Putin and Patriarch Kirill are friends

3. Identify the synonym of the word 'salvation' used in the passage.

- A. Balm
- B. Suffering
- C. Friendship
- D. Rescue

4. What is the meaning of the word 'unilateral' used in the passage?

- A. Involving only one group or country
- B. Negotiable
- C. Treaty
- D. Straight down

5. What is the central theme of the passage?

- A. Putin's policies
- B. Alignment of the Church and Kremlin in Russia
- C. Russia's relations with Syria
- D. Russia-Ukraine War

Passage



119. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Vande Bharat has changed the travel experience for the average middle-class train traveller. An amazing example of 'Make In India', Vande Bharat trains have come a long way since their inception in 2019. With a minimum speed of 160 km/h and facilities better than Shatabdi trains, Vande Bharat has proved to be a boon for the travel industry.

But if you thought this is the best travel experience you will get, you are about to be proven wrong for good! 2023 is going to be a game-changer for the Indian Railways with Vande Metro trains being the front runner. After the success of the high-speed Vande Bharat Express trains, the launch of Vande Metro trains in 2023 is set to enrich your travel time with the best of services. And, that's not all! Wondering what else 2023 has in store for you? Let's dive in! First, an insight into India's first Hydrogen-powered Vande Bharat trains.

The Indian Railways is currently manufacturing hydrogen-fuel cell powered eco-friendly Vande Metro trains which will replace the old trains that were designed in 1950s-60s. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently announced that these trains are going to be a huge leap forward as the focus will not be the end consumer. The hydrogen-powered Vande Metro trains will cater to the middle and lower class. It is safe to say that these trains will bring a transformative change in every Indian's day-to-day life. This is one of the biggest green initiatives by the Indian Railways as Hydrogen trains save fuel and make very little noise resulting in almost no pollution at all. These trains will reportedly only emit steam and evaporated water. This is going to be India's first and the world's second hydrogen train as Germany is the only country to have introduced the world's first hydrogen-powered trains.

Although the exact date of launch has still not been revealed, Vaishnaw has said that the design should be out anywhere between May and June 2023.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- A. The Vande metro trains
- B. The Vande Bharat trains
- C. Transformation in the life of Indians
- D. Indian Railways' hydrogen-powered trains

2. Which of the following will prove to be a big leap forward for the Indian Railways?

- A. Vande Metro trains
- B. Shatabdi trains
- C. Vande Bharat Express trains
- D. Vande Bharat trains

3. Which of the following will NOT be unique for the Vande metro trains?

- A. These will save fuel and will be less noisy.
- B. These will be hydrogen-powered trains.
- C. These will emit only steam and evaporated water.
- D. These will cater to middle and lower class.

4. Hydrogen-powered trains have been referred to as 'green initiative' for all of the following reasons

EXCEPT:

- A. they will be very high speed trains
- B. they will save fuel
- C. they will emit only steam and evaporated water
- D. they will be less noisy

5. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. Vande Bharat trains were first introduced in 2019.

Passage



- B. India will be the second country to have hydrogen-powered trains.
- C. The first hydrogen-powered trains were introduced in Germany.
- D. Hydrogen-powered trains will be introduced in India by the end of 2023.

120. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Tharoor systematically goes over the history of British rule in India and the adverse effects of colonialism on Indian industry and economy. He addresses each of the pro-colonial arguments-for example, that British rule brought about law and order to a nation that was ruled by debauched and/or brutal native rulers, that the Britishers actually ushered India into the modern age by building a superb rail and road network, that they put an end to heinous practices such as Sati and other sundry arguments that claim that British rule did quite a lot of good on the way to doing harm. He debunks each of these arguments.

When a child learns history in school, often it is a highly biased as well as highly abridged version. Yes, we all read about British Raj and the Indian freedom struggle. But history was not taught with a spirit of enquiry. We were never asked to argue both sides of a question. Or to think objectively about the effects of policies and actions, such as war and colonisation, upon the populations of the world.

An Era of Darkness serves as a brief guide to the entire history of British rule in India. At the same time, it gives precise information as to how the British Raj crippled India economically. Does this still affect India's current standing as an independent nation, and if so, how? And is reparation possible? These are some questions that the reader can ponder upon as she reads the book.

1. What is the central theme of this passage?

- A. No matter how much good is done by someone, one evil act spoils everything.
- B. Tharoor's book gives a perfect overview of the British rule in India.
- C. History is not always correctly depicted in India.
- D. An Era of Darkness leaves us with many questions.

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

- A. Tharoor is a systematic author who addresses all arguments one by one.
- B. An era of Darkness is an informative book
- C. British rule negatively impacted India.
- D. India was a much richer country before the Britishers came to India.

3. Which of the following words can replace the word 'reparation' in the passage?

- A. Revenge
- B. Vindication
- C. Sympathy
- D. Compensation

4. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from this passage?

- A. The British rule did India more harm than good.
- B. Some developmental changes were brought about by the British in India.
- C. There was an improvement in the Indian economic condition due to the British.
- D. The British helped in abolishing certain social practices

5. Which of the following summarizes the passage in one line?

- A. The passage is about India's economy at the time of the British rule.

Passage



B. It is a detail of how Tharoor feels about British rule and its impact on India.

C. It is about a debate Tharoor is having with himself about the good done by the British vs. the harm

D. The passage briefly describes how Tharoor's book appropriately gives an overview of British rule in India

121. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

GHCL Foundation, a non-profit organisation, has been working towards promoting sustainable and inclusive development of communities since 2014. It is a registered charitable trust that aims to 'go beyond business interest and positively impact society and the environment'.

One of the initiatives taken by the foundation was the initiation of horticulture plantation activities. The crops planted under the initiative included primarily coconut, along with other fruits like pomegranate, anola, lemon, jamfal, sitafal, mosambi, santra, chikku, jambu, dragon fruit, ramfal, hanumanfal, grapes, apple bore and kashmiri bore, sandalwood plants (red and white), sag, borsali, bilipatra, sisam wood, ramna, black pepper, asopalav, and sopari.

The aim of the project was to increase tree canopy to improve air quality in the surroundings and help farmers to divert from ordinary field crop to horticultural crops, so that higher income could be generated. The financial benefits for the farmers from these crops were substantial as the survival rate of plants was up to 70%.

In the first year of the initiative, 247 farmers joined in and planted 11,977 units covering about 60 hectares. By year two, the number of farmers increased to 612, covering over 216 hectares of land. The sum invested was ₹19 lakh, with farmers and GHCL Foundation sharing the cost equally. Since then, the number of farmers associated with the foundation has touched 996.

The introduction of black pepper as an inter-crop in the sopari and coconut orchards has enabled farmers to cultivate crops simultaneously. Owing to the profitability and high demand of black pepper, 633 farmers from several villages have joined hands with the team and

grown black pepper along with their usual crop.

1. Which of the following can be inferred from reading this passage?

A. The survival rates of plants increased only very slightly

B. Foundation was trying to make its own profits

C. Farmers contributed very little financially towards the project

D. Introduction of inter-crops made farming more sustainable

2. What is the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'inclusive' as used in the passage.

A. Restricted

B. Comprehensive

C. Tapered

D. Widened

3. How many farmers joined the initiative of the foundation?

A. 633

B. 996

C. 247

D. 612

4. The activities undertaken by the foundation are the kind that will _____.

A. meet changing needs of consumers

B. reduce farmer distress and suicides

C. help economic development of the country

D. increase the GDP and GNP levels

5. Which of the following options is the most appropriate title for the passage?

A. Growing black pepper to generate income

Passage



- B. Horticulture plantation activities of farmers
- C. Promoting sustainable and inclusive development
- D. How to increase tree canopy in summer

122. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

A man brought from town five of the finest peaches that were to be had. His children had never seen this fruit; therefore, they were highly delighted to see the beautiful peaches with their red cheeks and delicate bloom.

The father gave one to each of his four boys, and one to their mother. In the evening, just before the children went to bed, he asked them, "Well, how did you like the nice peaches?" "Very much, indeed," said the oldest boy. "It is a delicious fruit, delicate, with a luscious flavor.

I have taken care of the stone so as to grow a tree." "Well done," answered the father. "It is the duty of a good person to be economical and to think of the future." "I ate mine up," exclaimed the young twins in unison, "Well," said the father, "you still have time in life to become prudent." Then another son began: "I sold my own peach and received so much money for it that I may buy a dozen when I go to town."

The father asked Shirish, who answered: "I took my peach to the son of our neighbor, sick Gaurav, who has the fever. He would not take it, so I put it down on his bed and went away." "Well," said the father, "who has made the best use of his peach?". Then all the boys exclaimed: "Brother!" Shirish was silent, and his mother embraced him with tears in her eyes.

1. Which of the following summarises the passage in one sentence?

- A. A family ate a new fruit, so they used its seed in different ways, showing different ideas, and all agreed that Shirish put it to the best use and they should have thought that too.

B. The father brought peaches for the family, who enjoyed the fruit, but Shirish did not eat it as he gave it away to the sick neighbour.

C. Four boys who had never had peaches were given the fruit by their father, and they all used the fruits in different ways, although Shirish did not eat his as he gave it to Gaurav, which all thought to be the best use of the fruit.

D. The father of 4 boys got peaches from the town to test his sons, and Shirish was the winner as everyone voted for him.

2. Which of the following words can replace the word 'prudent' in the passage?

- A. Respectful
- B. Organised
- C. Practical
- D. Judicious

3. What is the central theme of this passage?

- A. There are different ways in which one thing can be used.
- B. The best way to live life and all that it offers is by helping others.
- C. Different people have different ideas of happiness.
- D. A loving neighbour is the best gift to anyone.

4. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- A. The oldest boy was mindful about the future
- B. The family in this story was a poor family.
- C. The boy's mother also got to eat a peach
- D. The father wanted to bring joy to the boys, so he got them peaches.

5. Who planted the peach using its seed / stone?

- A. The oldest son
- B. Shirish
- C. The twins
- D. The father

Passage



123. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Hospitality is a virtue for which the natives of the east in general are highly and deservedly admired and the people of Egypt are well entitled to commendation on this account. A word which signifies literally "a person on a journey" (Musafir) is the term most commonly employed in this country in the sense of a visitor or a guest. There are very few persons here who would think of sitting down to a meal if there were a stranger in the house without inviting him to partake of it unless the latter were menial; in which case, he would be invited to eat with the servants. It would be considered a shameful violation of good manners if a Muslim abstained from ordering the table to be prepared at the usual time because a visitor happened to be present. Persons of the middle classes in this country, if living in a retired situation, sometimes take their supper before the door of their house, and invite every passenger of respectable appearance to eat with them.

This is very commonly done among the lower order. In cities and last towns, claims on hospitality are unfrequent; as there are many wekalehs or Khans where strangers may obtain lodging and food is very easily procured but in the villages, travellers are often lodged and entertained by the shaykh or some other inhabitant and if the guest is a person of the middle or higher classes, or even not very poor he gives a present to his host's servants or to the host himself. In the desert, however, a present is seldom received from a guest. By Sunnah law, a traveller may claim entertainment from a person able to afford it to him, for three days.

1. What is the ritual followed by the people of the Middle East as they take supper?

- A. Sit before the door of their house to invite people to have food with them
B. Host servants

- C. Enlighten people with knowledge and wisdom
D. Respect the people who pass by and present them with gifts

2. What is a person on a journey in the Arab world termed?

- A. A traveller B. An inhabitant
C. A musafir D. A stranger

3. Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.

It would be considered a shameful violation of good manners if a Muslim abstained from ordering the table to be prepared at the usual time because a visitor happened to be present.

- A. Annexed B. Controlled
C. Refrained D. Assumed

4. Identify the tone of the passage from the following options.

- A. Introspective B. Humanistic
C. Romantic D. Humorous

5. Identify the central theme of the passage.

- A. Nature of the Arab world B. Muslim law
C. Hospitality – a virtue D. Respect for passengers

124. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Colonialism, a system where one country extends its control over another region or territory, has had a profound impact on the world's history and development. During the age of exploration, powerful European nations embarked on voyages, seeking new lands and resources to expand their empires.

The consequences of colonialism were far-reaching. Indigenous cultures and societies in colonized

Passage



regions often faced exploitation, oppression, and forced assimilation into European norms. Economic exploitation was rampant, as resources were extracted to enrich the colonizers at the expense of the colonized. Colonialism also had a significant impact on social and political structures. The imposition of foreign laws and governance disrupted traditional systems, leading to power struggles and conflicts within the colonized territories.

Moreover, the legacies of colonialism continue to shape the world today. Former colonies still grapple with the aftermath of their colonial past, including issues of identity, economic disparities, and social inequalities. Additionally, colonial boundaries have often resulted in ethnic and tribal tensions, impacting post-colonial nations' stability.

Despite the negative aspects, colonialism also facilitated the exchange of knowledge, technology, and cultures between different parts of the world. It led to the spread of language, religion, and trade, creating networks that connected diverse regions.

In contemporary times, the impacts of colonialism remain a subject of debate and analysis. Acknowledging the historical injustices and striving for equitable global relations is essential in understanding and addressing the complexities left behind by centuries of colonial rule.

1. What can be inferred about the author's perspective on colonialism from the passage?

1. The author believes that colonialism had only negative consequences.
2. The author emphasizes the benefits of colonialism for global development.
3. The author acknowledges both the positive and negative aspects of colonialism.
4. The author takes a neutral stance on the impact of colonialism.

2. What does the passage state about colonialism's impact on indigenous cultures?

1. Indigenous cultures faced exploitation, oppression, and forced assimilation.
2. Colonialism promoted the preservation of traditional indigenous practices.
3. Indigenous cultures experienced rapid modernization under colonial rule.
4. Colonialism led to the complete eradication of indigenous languages.

3. What is the central theme of the passage?

1. The enduring impact and complexities of colonialism in the present
2. The economic exploitation of colonies by European nations
3. The positive contributions of colonialism to global development
4. The cultural assimilation of indigenous societies by colonizers

4. Which title best represents the content and structure of the passage?

1. The Legacy of Colonialism in Modern Times
2. The Rise and Fall of Colonial Empires
3. The Advantages and Disadvantages of Colonial Rule
4. The Global Impact of Colonialism

125. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives

Jawaharlal Nehru, born on November 14, 1889, was India's first Prime Minister and a key figure in the Indian independence movement. He was an ardent supporter of the Indian National Congress and

Passage



actively participated in civil disobedience against British rule.

As the first Prime Minister after India gained independence in 1947, Nehru worked to shape the nation's future through progressive policies. He focused on economic and social reforms to uplift the masses, emphasized industrialization, and implemented educational advancements.

Nehru's vision for India emphasized secularism and unity in diversity, promoting a pluralistic society that celebrated its cultural heritage. He played a pivotal role in drafting India's Constitution, which enshrined democratic principles and social justice. Under Nehru's leadership, India pursued a policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, maintaining independence from major power blocs. He also contributed to the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement, advocating for global peace and cooperation.

Nehru's contributions to India's growth and development are deeply cherished, and his legacy as the "Architect of Modern India" continues to inspire generations. His dedication to democracy, secularism, and social justice has left a lasting impact on the nation's history

1. What title best suits the passage?

1. Jawaharlal Nehru's Political Career
2. The Life of Jawaharlal Nehru
3. India's Struggle for Independence
4. Jawaharlal Nehru - Architect of Modern India

2. What progressive policies did Nehru emphasize during his tenure as Prime Minister?

1. Agrarian land redistribution and wealth tax
2. Economic liberalization and privatization
3. Industrialization and educational reforms

4. Military expansion and nuclear armament

3. What can be inferred about Nehru's political ideology based on the passage?

1. He supported a policy of military aggression.
2. He was indifferent to India's economic development.
3. He believed in the importance of secularism and social equality.
4. He was a staunch advocate of religious fundamentalism.

4. What is the central theme of the passage?

1. Jawaharlal Nehru's Childhood and Education
2. India's Economic and Social Reforms
3. India's Struggle for Independence
4. The Legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru

126. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Nokia, a Finnish multinational corporation, has had a remarkable journey of innovation in the world of telecommunications. Founded in 1865 as a pulp mill, Nokia's transformation into a technology giant began in the 1960s when it ventured into the electronics industry. In the early 1980s, Nokia made its mark in the mobile phone market, producing some of the first handheld mobile devices.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Nokia dominated the mobile phone industry, earning a reputation for producing reliable and durable handsets. Its iconic "Nokia tune" became synonymous with mobile communication worldwide. Nokia's Symbian operating system was a pioneer in smartphone technology during this period. However, with the rise of smartphones like Apple's iPhone and Android devices in the late 2000s, Nokia faced stiff

Passage



competition. Its reluctance to adopt touchscreen technology and a modern app ecosystem led to a decline in market share. In 2014, Nokia's Devices and Services division was acquired by Microsoft. In recent years, Nokia has reinvented itself as a leader in telecommunications infrastructure, focusing on 5G technology, Internet of Things (IoT), and network services. The company's rich history and spirit of innovation continue to drive its endeavours, making it a significant player in shaping the future of communication technology.

1. What can be inferred about Nokia's current position in the telecommunications industry?

- 1. Nokia's innovation in mobile phone technology has regained its market dominance.
- 2. Nokia's struggle to compete with Apple's iPhone has led to its downfall.
- 3. Nokia is no longer a relevant player in the industry.
- 4. Nokia's focus on 5G technology and network services has helped it stay competitive.

2. Which statement is supported by the information in the passage?

- 1. Nokia's acquisition by Microsoft happened in the early 2000s.
- 2. Nokia's Symbian operating system was a failure in the smartphone market.
- 3. Nokia's decline in the mobile phone market was due to its reluctance to adopt touchscreen technology.
- 4. Nokia was founded in the 1960s as a telecommunications company.

3. What is the main theme of the passage?

- 1. Nokia's current focus on 5G technology and network services

- 2. Nokia's struggles to compete with modern smartphone technology
- 3. The dominance of Nokia in the mobile phone market
- 4. Nokia's transformation from a pulp mill to a technology leader

4. Which title best fits the passage?

- 1. The Evolution of Nokia from Pulp Mill to Tech Giant
- 2. Nokia: Pioneering Telecommunications Innovations
- 3. Nokia: A Journey of Challenges and Triumphs
- 4. The Rise and Fall of Nokia in the Mobile Industry

127. Read the given passage carefully and select the most appropriate answer to the questions that follow.

The Educational scheme or Course established by Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt may be resolved into the following synopsis. The pupils ate apples and put straws down one another's backs, until Mr Wopsle's great-aunt collected her energies, and made an indiscriminate totter at them with a birch-rod. After receiving the charge with every mark of derision, the pupils formed in line and buzzingly passed a ragged book from hand to hand. The book had an alphabet in it, some figures and tables, and a little spelling – that is to say, it had had once. As soon as this volume began to circulate, Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt fell into a state of coma; arising either from sleep or a rheumatic paroxysm. The pupils then entered among themselves upon a competitive examination on the subject of Boots, with the view of ascertaining who could tread the hardest upon whose toes. This mental exercise lasted until Bidy made a rush at them and distributed three defaced Bibles (shaped as if they had been unskilfully cut off the chump-end of something), more illegibly printed at the best than any curiosities of literature I have since met with,

Passage



speckled all over with ironmould, and having various specimens of the insect world smashed between their leaves.

1. Which of the following statements is not true with respect to the passage.

- 1. A book was passed from hand to hand which had numbers in it.
2. As the book started to circulate Mr. Wopsle's great aunt would fall asleep.
3. The pupils ate apples and put straws down one another's backs.
4. The Bibles circulated were impossible to read.

2. From the given options, identify the suitable title for the passage.

- 1. Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt
2. The Educational scheme
3. Rheumatic Paroxysm
4. Bidy's Rush

3. Identify the correct inference that can be drawn from the passage.

- 1. The students would check each other's shoes, to determine who could trample the hardest.
2. The Bibles circulated were in excellent condition.
3. Mr. Wopsle and his great aunt would tutor the students together.
4. Mr. Wopsle's great aunt was very active during the course sessions.

4. Select the options the most appropriate meaning of the bracketed word given in the sentence below.

'..Mr Wopsle's great-aunt collected her energies, and made an indiscriminate (totter) at them with a birch-rod.'

- 1. stable 2. scream 3. wobble 4. jump

128. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

The ultimate goal of NASA's exoplanet program is to find unmistakable signs of current life on a planet beyond Earth. How soon that can happen depends on two unknowns: the prevalence of life in the galaxy and how lucky we get as we take those first, tentative, exploratory steps.

Our early planet finding missions, such as NASA's Kepler and its extended incarnation, K2, or the coming James Webb Space Telescope, could yield bare bones evidence of the potentially habitable worlds. James Webb, designed in part to investigate gas giants and super Earths, might find an outsized version of our planet. NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope or the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope, could zero in on a distant planet's reflected light to detect the signatures of oxygen, water vapour, or some other powerful indication of possible life.

But unless we get lucky, the search for signs of life could take decades. Discovering another blue-white marble hidden in the star field, like a sand grain on the beach, will probably require an even larger imaging telescope. Designs are already underway for that next-generation planet finder, to be sent aloft in the 2030s or 2040s.

MIT physics professor Sara Seager looks for possible chemical combinations that could signal the presence of alien life. She and her biochemistry colleagues first focused on the six main elements associated with life on Earth: carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, sulphur, and hydrogen. "We're going to have so few planets, we have to get lucky," Seager said. "I don't want to miss anything. I don't want to miss it because we weren't smart enough to think of some molecule."

Passage



1. Select the most appropriate title for the passage.

- 1. Work Pressure at NASA
2. Lack of Good Telescopes
3. Search for Life beyond Earth 4. Work done at MIT

2. Which word in the passage means 'suitable to live in'?

- 1. Habitable 2. Exoplanet
3. Outsized 4. Incarnation

3. What is the specialty of NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope that is NOT present in any other telescopes?

- 1. It can give evidence of potentially habitable worlds.
2. It is designed to investigate gas giants and super Earths.
3. It is the largest next-generation imaging telescope.
4. It can zero in on the reflected light of a distant planet.

4. Why did Sara Seager and her colleagues focus on the six elements present in the Earth?

- 1. These elements signal the presence of life.
2. These elements are the scientists' specialisation.
3. These elements can be seen by a telescope.
4. These elements are present in all the planets.

129. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The funding crisis at many zoos has reopened the debate over the value of zoos and whether they should be allowed to exist at all. People who are in favour of zoos argue that they perform an essential role in conserving rare animal species.

Conservationists estimate that today at least 1,000 species of animals are threatened. Over the last 20 years, zoos have developed programs designed to help preserve endangered species. This involves breeding animals in captivity in 'captive breeding programs' and then re-introducing them into their natural habitats, to replenish the number living in the wild. Zoos co-operate with each other in order to ensure the success of their breeding programs. Animals are passed from one zoo to another in order to prevent inbreeding. If animals that are closely related to one another mate, there is a danger that they will produce deformed offspring.

Supporters of zoos argue that they have an important role in educating children, millions of whom visit zoos every year. Television viewing is no substitute for encountering real animals, they argue. Zoos also carry out important research such as the best conditions for rare species to reproduce. If Zoos were forced to close, it would be disastrous for world conservation, say zoo supporters, adding that most animals in captivity would have to be killed. According to the National Federation of Zoos, it does not take much imagination to realise that the closure of all zoos would mean the deliberate destruction of wildlife on a scale never before witnessed.

Opponents of zoos accept that some species have been saved from extinction by the captive breeding programs, but they argue that this offers no solution to the worldwide conservation crisis. The number of animals protected by zoos is tiny compared with the overall problem. It costs millions to save the Arabian oryx from dying out; but could that amount be available for every species that is endangered'?

The value of zoo-breeding programs is also questioned as some species, such as the African elephant, do not reproduce well in captivity. Captive animals are often kept in poor and inhumane conditions, the opponents say. In the worst zoos, animals are still displayed for the purpose of public

Passage



entertainment. When animals are placed in impoverished and unsuitable surroundings, they often behave in abnormal and neurotic ways. It is common for polar bears to constantly pace up and down or twist their heads. This behaviour is now recognised by scientists as a sign of stress and frustration. When children visit zoos where animals are acting in neurotic and abnormal ways, they are not being educated. Instead, opponents say, they are being given information that is inaccurate.

1. Which of these can be regarded as the consequence of inbreeding?

- A. unhealthy breeding ground B. death in captivity
C. neurotic behavior in animals
D. deformed offspring

2. Pacing up and down has been associated with stress among _____.

- A. elephants B. polar bears
C. children D. Arabian oryx

3. How do zoos support the captive breeding program?

- A. by offering a solution to the worldwide conservation crisis
B. by donating animals for the program
C. by releasing zoo-bred animals to their natural habitat
D. by exchanging animals of rare species

4. The debate over the value of zoos has reopened due to -

- A. shortage of funds for running the zoos
B. the inability of the African elephant to reproduce
C. television programs on true aspects of wild life
D. the impoverished and unsuitable surroundings

5. Which of these arguments strongly favours the presence of zoos?

- A. Animals are displayed for public entertainment.
B. The number of animals protected by zoos is very small.
C. Children are given incorrect information in zoos.
D. Closure of zoos would lead to willful destruction of wild life

130. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Like bad news and common cold, allergies can pop up when least expected. I suddenly developed an allergy to crocin (paracetamol) some years ago after having it all my life to treat everything, from headache to fever to toothache. A stuffed or drippy nose, frequent sneezing, an itchy throat, rashes, sinus, ear pain, difficulty in breathing, stomach cramps, itchiness, red or watery eyes are some of the common symptoms of an allergic reaction. Pollen, dust, polluted outdoor air, and indoor pollutants, such as dust mites, animal dander, cigarette smoke and mould are among the common environmental pollutants, while other triggers include medicines, paint, and chemicals in cleaners and cosmetics, such as hair colour and skin creams. Among foods, eight allergens account for almost 90% of food allergies : milk, soy, wheat, egg, peanut, tree nuts, fish and shellfish. Most of us wrongly believe that people with allergies are either born with them or develop them in early childhood. An allergy can develop at any time in your life and its prevalence among adults is rising. While most people who develop allergies as adults have experienced some allergic reaction - either to the same or an unrelated trigger before - a few have no history of sensitivity. In an acute immune reaction, the allergy trigger may be one, but the symptom is usually caused by a combination of factors. Stress, a sterile environment

Passage



that prevents the body from developing immunity and lifestyle-induced changes in the body's hormonal balance are thought to be some triggers.

This has been borne out by clinical evidence that women are more likely to develop allergies at puberty, after pregnancy, and at menopause, all pointing to hormonal causes. Avoiding the allergy trigger and taking anti-allergy medication as soon as you can, after exposure to an allergen is the best possible protection. Since pollen levels generally peak in the morning, people with airway sensitivity and asthma should postpone outdoor exercises to later in the day or stick to exercising indoors, as deeper and more rapid breathing induced by aerobic exercise causes more pollen and dust being inhaled, which can wreck your airways and lungs. Since air pollutants tend to cling to clothes and hair, changing your clothes when you come home or washing your hair before going to bed, lowers exposure.

Allergies in adults can be treated using some anti allergic medicines. For those who do not respond to the standard treatment, there's always the option of a series of allergy shots to help the immune system to build up a tolerance to the allergy. In most cases, though, identifying and avoiding the allergen is enough to stay free of trouble.

1. Which of these is NOT a common symptom of an allergic reaction?

- A. frequent sneezing B. stomach cramps C. itchy eyes D. toothache

2. Complete the sentence.

Milk, soy, eggs and fish can _____.

- A. be used to treat allergies B. cause indoor pollution C. can build tolerance to allergies D. cause food allergies

3. Outdoor exercise in the morning should be avoided by asthma patients because

- A. stress can lower the immunity of the body B. rapid breathing can disturb the hormonal balance C. aerobic exercises can make breathing difficult D. excessive inhalation of pollens can damage lungs

4. The misconception about allergies is that

- A. anti-allergy medication can protect against allergens. B. prevalence of allergy among adults is rising C. allergy triggers may be present indoors D. they are developed in early childhood only

5. What is an acute immune reaction?

- A. There is one allergy trigger but the symptom is caused by a combination of factors. B. The body develops immunity against the allergy triggers. C. The allergy trigger is usually limited to animal fur or food items. D. There are several combinations of triggers but the symptom is usually one

131. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The world's first book-less library has been set up in the state of Texas in the United States. Unlike the rows upon rows of books that are found in a conventional library anywhere in the world, at the book-less library, there are high-tech gadgets that have replaced the books.

The borrowers. of books from this high-tech book-less library have a different set of rules to follow when borrowing books. Instead of taking home books for reading, the members. of the library, can now

Passage



access their choice of reading matter from e-readers. Also, instead of having to pay a fee for membership of the library and for borrowing books and other facilities, the members. can borrow reading matter from the book less library for free.

The services of this library have found favour with its readers. is clearly visible from the growing readership numbers. at this library. Since its start in September, the country's 1.7 million residents have been able to check out and take home the machines for reading purposes and accessing the catalogue. They are also able to use their own devices to check out and access the catalogue of the library. This Biblio-Tech of 1.5 million books, currently has 600 e-readers, 200 pre-loaded enhanced e-readers. for children and 48 computer stations for use by its readers. In addition, there are 10 laptops, and 40 tablets available in the premises, for use by the readers. Not satisfied with simply providing e-reading services, the Biblio-Tech has created a list of higher ambitions for itself. The most prominent of these include their ambition to give up the country's necessary tools 'to thrive as citizens of the 21st century'. For them, a well-connected citizen of this country is one who strives for enhancing his education and literacy and promoting 'reading as a recreation'.

As part of reader services at the Biblio-Tech, its Special Project Coordinator, Laura Cole comments that the library authorities wanted to create the best and the most cost effective way of providing library services. This was especially suitable for the Texas county's residents as the population here is geographically distanced from existing services. In fact there has never been a book store or library in this area. "Geography does not matter if your library is in the clouds," adds Laura Cole, referring to the 'cloud' system where the books of the library are stored online.

1. 1 What would you NOT find in the Texas library?

- A. tools B. catalogues C. e readers D. tablets

2. Which of these statements is NOT true?

- A. Computer stations have been installed for use by readers. B. E books can be checked out using personal devices. C. Borrowers. can take home the machines for reading purposes. D. There is a nominal membership fee for borrowing books

3. 'library is in the clouds' means

- A. the books are stored online using the Cloud system B. the library is located in a high rise building C. the library has set high ambitions for itself D. the library is within the reach of all citizens

4. The Biblio-Tech is highly suitable for Texas residents because

- A. the population is keen to enhance literacy in the state B. the people are capable of handling electronic gadgets C. people do not follow rules when borrowing printed books D. there is no book store or library in the area

5. How many e-books does the library boast of?

- A. 200 B. 1.7 million C. 600 D. 1.5 million

Passage



132. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least, most of us could compile formidable lists of do's, and don'ts. The same old favourites recur year in and year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure. Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercises lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living-room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really

upsetting but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humorously and soon everybody got used to the idea.

However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. On 10th January, I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs. and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

1. Which of these is NOT a common New Year resolution?

- A. Spending time with children
- B. Waking up early every morning
- C. Eating well in large portions
- D. Helping around the house

2. How long did the narrator continue to exercise?

- A. two days B. five days
- C. ten days D. eight days

3. What makes us look more foolish when we cannot keep a resolution?

- A. frustration resulting from failure
- B. lying about our resolutions
- C. making unattainable resolutions
- D. announcing our resolution publicly

Passage



4. Select the word which means the same as 'assiduous'

- A. humorous B. ambitious C. laborious D. monotonous

5. How did the family come to know of the narrator's resolution to exercise?

- A. He made a loud noise jumping on the carpet B. They watched his performance. C. The narrator boasted of it. D. They found him exhausted at breakfast.

133. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Helping children develop strong friendships can be a gift with lifelong benefits, including better mental and physical health. Maintaining close friendships has a positive impact on cardiovascular and neuroendocrine health, as well as the immune system, research shows. According to a 2010 review of 148 studies, strong friendships provide greater health benefits than quitting smoking, losing weight or doing exercise. Having a close group of friends and strong family ties reduces people's mortality risk by 50%, the analysis shows. Being lonely or isolated has the same impact on someone's mortality as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to a survey of 20,000 Americans.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development, which started in 1938 during the Great Depression and tracked more than 700 men throughout their lives, found that people's satisfaction with their relationships during their 50s was a better predictor of their physical health later in life, than their cholesterol levels. These findings show the importance of treating friendship as a "lifelong endeavour", says Denworth. "It is never too late to make new friends, but it's a great idea to start early."

While some studies define best friendship as involving only one special friend, the findings generally suggest that it is the quality and reciprocity of the relationship that is the beneficial factor, rather than the number of friends involved.

Such bonds can play a vital role in helping children cope with challenges in their lives and overcome adversity, research shows. Children who have a best friend tend to experience less loneliness and depression and greater self-worth. One study found that having close, supportive friends can help children from low-income backgrounds cope better with difficult circumstances. "The best friendships of children seemed to be associated with having better coping skills and a better sense of being able to change things about their lives," says Graber, the study's lead author, adding that the findings for friendships among boys and girls were similar.

1. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

Being the single child of a billionaire, Anya had lived a life of privilege.

- A. Grace B. Power C. Adversity D. Sadness

2. Identify the most suitable title for the passage from the options below:

- A. How to use friends and win in life B. The Art of making Friends C. How friends enrich humans D. Friends – Devils or deep seas

3. What do you identify as the central theme of the passage?

- A. The ability of children to competently manage without developing any friendships B. The possible detrimental effects of loneliness in single child households.

Passage



- C. The ability of adults to encourage students to have friends in their school years
- D. The extraordinary mental and physical benefits of developing close friendships from childhood

4. Identify the tone of the passage from the options below:

- A. Reasoned
- B. Sarcastic
- C. Studious
- D. Ruminative

5. Identify the option which depicts the correct fact?

- A. Cardiac health is likely to worsen with intense social interaction.
- B. Social interaction starts only after children go to school.
- C. Studies show that moderate smoking and an isolated existence have an equal impact on mortality.
- D. Developing self-worth is a matter of fighting for one's rights.

134. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Hidden from the world for decades, Baikonur Cosmodrome helped the Soviets launch their space outreach. Today, it is the world's primary spaceport – although its sense of secrecy remains. Behind the Iron Curtain, the world's first and most secretive space base, Baikonur, set up in the middle of a vast Central Asian desert, 2,600km south-east of Moscow and 1,300km from Kazakhstan's two main cities, Nur-Sultan and Almaty. It was from this remote part of the western desert steppe in 1957 that the space program front-runner Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite – Sputnik 1 – into orbit around Earth. Four years later, in 1961, Yuri Gagarin launched from here to become the first human to fly into space aboard the Vostok1. And in 1963, Valentina

Tereshkova launched from Baikonur as the first woman in space.

After the retirement of NASA's Space Shuttle Program in 2011, Baikonur became the planet's only working launch site to the International Space Station (ISS). Now, 60 years after Gagarin's historic first flight, it remains the world's main spaceport.

But how and why did a dusty outpost in the wilds of western Kazakhstan become humanity's unlikely gateway to outer space? To get to space, you need two things: to be far away from populated areas; and to be as close to the equator as possible to take advantage of the Earth's rotational speed, which is fastest at that contour of the planet. In the case of the US space Program, this meant the east coast of Florida, where the Kennedy Space Center was built. The Soviet Union, meanwhile, went to the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic in search of a remote locale within its borders that could accommodate long-range missile testing and rocket launches.

That this isolated, desolate land is the last place that astronauts stay before they leave Earth, and the first place they see when they return home, seems oddly fitting. NASA astronaut Scott Kelly described Baikonur as a kind of halfway house to space: "It seems more like it's a stepping stone to someplace that's further isolated. You know, one stony, remote place to a much more remote place."

Whatever its future as a working spaceport, the value of Baikonur as a piece of living history, Soviet nostalgia and human cultural heritage is indisputable. London, Paris, Beijing and Washington may all be the centres of empires past or present, but it was from a dusty railway stop in the middle of the Kazakh steppe that humanity took its first foray into the cosmos.

Passage



1. Choose the best option that explains the meaning of the following word:

Desolate

- A. To be neglected and ignored B. To be divorced
C. To be abandoned
D. To be bleak and empty

2. Which title is most suitable for the passage?

- A. Baikonur – Better and Brighter
B. Baikonur – a Soviet secret
C. Baikonur – A Copy of Kennedy Space Centre
D. Baikonur – Gateway to the Great Unknown

3. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

France launched the Concorde in a blaze of publicity.

- A. Silence B. Secrecy
C. Mysticism D. Discourse

4. Baikonur is located in which part of Kazakhstan?

- A. In its desert steppe B. In Almaty
C. In Nur- Sultan D. In central Russia

5. What is the synonym for foray?

- A. Expedition B. Incision
C. Decision D. Direction

135. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

In a world of more intense and frequent flooding, one way to protect against the worst can trace its roots back to the Netherlands, nearly 1000 years ago. This July, gorged by days of rain, the Meuse River broke its banks, and the Belgian town of Liège was its victim.

Waters the colour of old gravy raced through town, leaving residents floating in canoes as their homes vanished about them. In the city and its province, over 20 died, one man drowning in his basement.

Nor was this corner of Eastern Belgium alone. In nearby Germany, around 200 perished, with journalists describing the flooding as a once-in-a-century event. The financial impact of the disaster was shocking too. Yet as the mayhem unfolded, one corner of Northern Europe suffered far less. In the Netherlands, the summer flooding was also described as the worst in a century and property damage was severe, but the country survived the floods without a single fatality. There are many reasons for this: quick evacuations, strong dikes and robust communication among them. But what underpins these varied forms of flood defence is an institution: the so-called "water boards" that have protected this waterlogged land for nearly a millennium.

These associations are worth understanding for the way they blend local democracy, direct taxation and crystal-clear transparency to put water at the very core of Dutch life. And the Netherlands is not alone. From the Ethiopian uplands to the communities along the Danube, water managers the world over have borrowed aspects of the Dutch model for their own needs, improving life for thousands along the way. They may soon be joined by other regions, as countries the world over face up to the rise in inundation and floods that come with climate change. Even today, this still makes sense in a nation where nearly a third of the land and half of homes still lie below sea level. Dutch polders (low-lying fields reclaimed from the sea) and dikes need to be maintained collectively.

This natural vulnerability – "Netherlands" literally means "low-lying country" – helps explain the growing power of the water boards. The water boards have plainly evolved from that lost age of trade guilds

Passage



and ruff collars. Where once there were 3,500, just 21 remain, represented by a national association. But though their number has been cut, their role has arguably been extended: beyond organising and maintaining flood defences, they're also responsible for water quality control, river and canal maintenance and sewage treatment. And their distinctive history still seeps into contemporary Dutch life while protecting human life.

1. 1 Identify the most apt title for the passage from the options below:

- A. Climate change leads to calamities
B. Hundreds dead in European floods
C. How Netherlands controlled the sea
D. India should learn how to protect its coastal cities and towns.

2. What do you identify as the central theme of the passage?

- A. The necessity for all countries to begin building dykes to control floods
B. Climate change will flood all low lying cities of the world.
C. Awareness and education are the key to tackling climate change
D. The Dutch solution to manage flooding arising due to climate change.

3. Identify the tone of the passage from the options below:

- A. Laudatory B. Factual
C. Informative D. Pessimistic

4. What is the synonym for guild?

- A. Painter B. Organization
C. Decorated D. Familial

5. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

Parched and starved, the mythical Saraswati river changed course and vanished from our land.

- A. Hungry B. Flowing
C. Ravenous D. Gorged

136. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Young adults who experienced trauma in childhood are more at risk for misusing prescription opioids, according to new research from the University of Georgia. The study, which was recently published in the Journal of American College Health, supports arguments to expand opioid risk screeners to include adverse childhood experiences.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) describe a range of stressors, some more severe than others, that can lead to negative health outcomes as an adult. These can range from having divorced parents to experiencing domestic violence or food insecurity. Previous studies have linked childhood trauma to chronic health conditions, chronic pain, mental health conditions and health risk behaviours, including illicit drug use. But it's unclear whether ACEs might influence prescription drug misuse and, in particular, prescription opioid misuse.

Opioid misuse is growing among young adults ages 18 to 25, now outpacing abuse among other groups. So, could adverse childhood experiences play a role in how young adults manage pain and opioid use? To explore this question, the researchers surveyed 1,402 college students from a large southeast university. The participants answered questions related to ACEs, health status and behaviours associated with prescription opioid abuse. Nearly two-thirds of participants reported having at least one adverse childhood experience. Compared to participants with no adverse childhood experiences,

Passage



those who reported zero to three ACEs were almost two times more likely to be at risk for opioid misuse. Participants who reported four or more ACEs had almost three times greater risk. 78.8 per cent of participants reported having at least one past or current health condition, which is a key pathway connecting ACEs and opioid use because having some sort of health condition or injury is typically the first time a student would be exposed to an opioid.

1. What is the antonym for Abuse?

- A. Cherish B. Tease C. vilify D. Break

2. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

By far, my childhood years, spent in a remote and rural area, were hugely beneficial for my mental wellbeing.

- A. Useful B. Peaceful C. Adverse D. Lucrative

3. In the study of 1402 students who are opioid abusers, approx. how many reported a traumatic childhood incident?

- A. Almost all B. Approx. 467 C. Approx. 500 D. Approx. 934

4. Which situations are especially traumatic to children, according to this current news report?

- A. Certain genetic pre-conditions that draw youth towards drug usage B. Poverty is the critical denominator for high drug usage C. Poor health and lack of education and sport D. A breakdown of social, psychological and physical security

5. Which title is most suitable for the passage?

- A. More drug pushers than ever among youth B. Opioid use high among traumatized youth C. Study reveals that today's youth cannot tolerate pain D. Childhood experiences shape tolerance to pain

137. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Everyone admits how praiseworthy it is in a prince to keep faith, and to live with integrity and not with craft. Nevertheless our experience has been that those princes who have done great things have held good faith of little account, and have known how to circumvent the intellect of men by craft, and in the end have overcome those who have relied on their word. You must know there are two ways of contesting, the one by the law, the other by force; the first method is proper to men, the second to beasts; but because the first is frequently not sufficient, it is necessary to have recourse to the second. Therefore it is necessary for a prince to understand how to avail himself of the beast and the man.

This has been figuratively taught to princes by ancient writers, who describe how Achilles and many other princes of old were given to the Centaur Chiron to nurse, who brought them up in his discipline; which means solely that, as they had for a teacher one who was half beast and half man, so it is necessary for a prince to know how to make use of both natures, and that one without the other is not durable.

A prince, therefore, being compelled knowingly to adopt the beast, ought to choose the fox and the lion; because the lion cannot defend himself against snares and the fox cannot defend himself against wolves. Therefore, it is necessary to be a fox to discover the snares and a lion to terrify the wolves.

Passage



Those who rely simply on the lion do not understand what they are about.

Therefore a wise leader cannot, nor ought he to, keep faith when such observance may be turned against him, and when the reasons that caused him to pledge it, exist no longer. If men were entirely good this precept would not hold, but because they are bad, and will not keep faith with you, you too are not bound to observe it with them. But it is necessary to know well how to disguise this characteristic, and to be a great pretender and dissembler; and men are so simple, and so subject to present necessities, that he who seeks to deceive will always find someone who will allow himself to be deceived.

1. Identify the most appropriate title for the passage from the options below:

- A. On How to be an Ideal King
- B. Law against Force
- C. Fooling the Common citizen
- D. The Mad methods of Leaders

2. Identify the option which depicts the correct fact?

- A. Ordinary citizens are smarter than their leader
- B. The leader who is a pretender will always succeed.
- C. The fox is faster than the lion
- D. A leader must be saintly and truthful

3. What do you identify as the central theme of the passage?

- A. Leaders should trust all his subjects
- B. All people should be leaders
- C. Leaders should have extremely crooked personalities and nasty characters

D. Leaders should run with the hare and hunt with the hound

4. What is the synonym for dissembler?

- A. Handyman B. Charlatan C. Engineer D. pastor

5. Identify the tone of the passage from the options below:

- A. Pessimistic B. Hectoring C. Sarcastic D. Advisory

138. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Mounted primarily by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Easter Rising of 1916, also known as the Easter Rebellion, aimed both to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish Republic at a time when the military assets of the United Kingdom were heavily engaged in World War I and thus largely unavailable for activity on the home front. Led by schoolteacher and barrister Patrick Pearse, members of the Irish Volunteers joined forces with the smaller Irish Citizen Army of James Connolly and 200 members of the all female CummannamBan, together seizing key locations in Dublin and ultimately proclaiming the Irish Republic independent with the issue of the Easter Proclamation.

After six days of fighting, the Rising was suppressed, its leaders court-martialed and executed. Militarily, the Rising was a failure; even with its attention divided, the British military out-classed and outnumbered the insurgent force. Yet support for republicanism continued to rise in Ireland in the wake of the Easter Rebellion. Though many members of the Dublin public were originally simply bewildered by the outbreak of the Rising, the harshness of the British response and the summary execution of the movement's leaders garnered widespread horror and sympathy.

Passage



In elections only two years later, Sinn Féin, an Irish republican party, won 73 seats out of 105, dominating the Irish delegation to the British parliament, and under their leadership the Irish would again declare their independence in 1919, establishing the Republic of Ireland which persists to this day.

1. According to the author, what solidified the determination of the Irish people to secede from England?

- A. The lies of English leaders promising jobs and industries to the Irish people
- B. The long and incessant pillage of Irish wealth by British parliament.
- C. The forceful conscription of young Irish men into the English Army to fight in WW I
- D. The ruthless crushing of the Easter uprising and the summary execution of its leaders by English military.

2. In which year did Sinn Fein win a majority of the seats assigned to Ireland for the British Parliament?

- A. 1916
- B. 1920
- C. 1918
- D. 1917

3. Choose the best option that explains the meaning of the following word, in context of the passage:

Summary

- A. A brief statement or account of the main points of something
- B. A chapter of a long thesis given by a doctor at a seminar
- C. A complete account of a mathematical problem
- D. An action conducted without the customary legal formalities.

4. Which title is most suitable for the passage?

- A. The uprising for an Irish Republic
- B. The demand for a free country
- C. The rise of Sinn Fein
- D. Methods used by the English Police

5. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

Which European king had a reputation of clemency?

- A. Atrocity
- B. Silence
- C. Execution
- D. leadership

139. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given beside it.

The mark of a great writer is when his words resonate across centuries and generations. Not only is the writer and his work termed to be way ahead of his time, but also a reflection of the contemporary society. Upanyas Samrat Munshi Premchand was one such prolific writer. His oeuvre included more than a dozen novels (his first was the 1903 novel called 'DevasthanRahasya', and his last one, 'Mangalsootra', remained unfinished), around 250 short stories, many essays, and even Hindi translations of a number of foreign literary works.

Through these stories, Premchand took his readers through the social upheavals of 20th century India. His characters were usually strong and resilient. His women were of substance – bold, strong and with a mind of their own. But at the same time, Premchand had an ideal woman in his mind, a woman who is docile, obedient, and chaste. He was quite critical of the urban and Westernised career woman. This dichotomy couldn't be more reflective of today's women. The author was equally judgemental of men, portraying many as irresponsible, egoistic, and selfish.

Passage



The issues he raised in his works have him relevant till date. From the social evil of caste discrimination to the prevalence of dowry, read a Premchand story now and there will be times when you feel nothing really has changed, but then, so much has.

In Premchand's world, the bad are needed to offset the good. Self-seeking, bhang-drinking pandits, effete landlords, college-going newly-westernised sahibs and memsahibs, and corrupt petty officials are set against another set of characters. There is, for instance, the orphan Hamid who buys a pair of iron tongs for his grandmother instead of sweets and toys for himself, little Ladli who sets aside her share of puris for old Kaki, the corrupt Pandit

Alopideen who shows immense generosity for a fallen but upright opponent, Jhuri who loved his oxen like his own children – all these help restore our faith that human beings can occasionally be good and kind too. Stock characters like Dukhi the tanner, Halku the peasant, Gangi the untouchable woman, Buddhu the shepherd, Bhajan Singh the hot-headed thakur and countless others served a useful purpose to someone of Premchand's literary disposition: he exploited the intrinsic worth of stock characters and stock situations to portray a very real world. Like the Russian masters whom he admired so much, realism for Premchand was a *mise en scene* against which he built up the props of character and plot. "I write for only one sake: To present a human truth, or to show a new angle of looking at common things," he wrote.

Yet, for all the moralistic overtones, he appeals to all that is good and decent in us, all that is moved by exploitation, injustice and intolerance. It is this quality that has single-handedly made Premchand relevant to modern readers, even young urban readers, explaining why great stories like *Do Baiton ki Katha* or *Idgah* continue to be prescribed reading in school textbooks.

1. Give a suitable title to above given passage.

- A. Premchand for Equality
- B. Premchand, the Social Novelist
- C. Premchand: Our Contemporary
- D. The World of Premchand

2. The author's attitude toward Premchand can be best described as which of the following?

- A. Overweening pride
- B. Mild acceptance
- C. Positive appreciation
- D. Apathetic objectivity

3. The word PROLIFIC has been correctly used in which of the following sentences:

- A. Thousands of years ago the surface was a prolific desert.
- B. Few music composers can match his prolific output.
- C. She slumped against the wall, defeated by alcohol and prolific rage.
- D. After a prolific search, my wife is then allowed to join in the team.

4. Identify the structure of the above given passage.

- A. Descriptive
- B. Chronological
- C. Contrast and compare
- D. Cause and effect

5. Antonym of the word RESILIENT given in the passage is:

- A. Strong
- B. Calm
- C. Tough
- D. Vulnerable

140. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given beside it.

It is only a berry, encasing a double-sided seed. It first grew on a shrub - or small tree, depending on your perspective or height - under the Ethiopian rain forest canopy, high on the mountainsides. The



Passage



evergreen leaves form glossy ovals and, like the seeds, are laced with caffeine. Yet coffee is big business, one of the world's most valuable agricultural commodities, providing the largest jolt of the world's most widely taken psychoactive drug. From its original African home, coffee propagation has spread in a girdle around the globe, taking over whole plains and mountainsides between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. In the form of a hot infusion of its ground, roasted seeds, coffee is consumed for its bittersweet bouquet, its mindracing jump start, and social bonding. At various times it has been prescribed as an aphrodisiac, enema, nerve tonic, and life extender.

Coffee provides a livelihood (of sorts) for some 125 million human beings. It is an incredibly labor-intensive crop. Calloused palms plant the seeds, nurse the seedlings under a shade canopy, transplant them to mountainside ranks, prune and fertilize, spray for pests, irrigate, harvest, and lug two hundred-pound bags of coffee cherries. Laborers regulate the complicated process of removing the precious bean from its covering of pulp and mucilage. Then the beans must be spread to dry for several days (or heated in drums), the parchment and silver skin removed, and the resulting green beans bagged for shipment, roasting, grinding, and brewing around the world.

The vast majority of those who perform these repetitive tasks work in beautiful places, yet these laborers earn an average of \$3 a day. Many live in poverty without plumbing, electricity, medical care, or nutritious foods. The coffee they prepare lands on breakfast tables, in offices and upscale coffee bars of the United States, Europe, Japan, and other developed countries, where cosmopolitan consumers often pay a day's Third World wages for a cappuccino.

1. The inferences that can be drawn from the passage:

- A. Coffee plantation requires no particular set of skills and is independent of physical labour.
- B. Coffee calms the mind, induces sleep, and binds people socially as it is an inexpensive drink.
- C. Processing coffee is the act of removing the coffee beans and keeping layers of skin, pulp, mucilage, and parchment that surround it to be sold in market.
- D. Coffee is a major source of income for many coffee-producing countries and is a significant part of business sector in consumer countries.

2. Choose the word which best expresses nearly the same meaning as the word

CALLOUSED:

- A. extremely impressive.
- B. tending to move unsteadily from side to side
- C. the occurrence and development of events
- D. having an area of hardened skin

3. The passage describes coffee as one of the world's most valuable agricultural commodity. On basis of this statement can one imply that coffee is a socioeconomic crop.

- A. No B. Can't say C. Maybe D. Yes

4. The word PROPAGATION has been correctly used in which of the following sentences:

- A. There's an error in your propagation.
- B. Speech is the fastest method of propagation between people.
- C. Propagation measures will be necessary in areas of erratic rainfall.
- D. They found that the velocity of propagation of different musical sounds was the same.

Passage



5. The statement which appropriately summarizes the above given passage is:

- A. Coffee is social lubricant, plays an important role in various aspects of life.
- B. Coffee is an aromatic beverage prepared by fresh leaves of *Camellia sinensis*, an evergreen shrub native to China.
- C. Coffee provides lucrative employment to laborers, earning 50-60% of the retail price.
- D. Coffee is the basis for an endless array of beverages, its popularity is mainly attributed its covering of pulp and mucilage.

141. Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

Saadat Hasan Manto is considered as one of the best short-story writers in the whole of South Asia. His writing career just spanned across two decades but he has a rich collection of literary work. Manto was a central and controversial figure on the subcontinent's literary scene from the 1940s until his untimely death in 1955. In their introductory essay to this collection, the editors offer evidence that Manto was a deeply political writer, one committed to radical humanism.

Despite his often fraught relationship with the Progressive Writers' Association, he rightfully belongs within the fold of the progressives. Ismat Chughtai, in her memoir of Manto known as *Kaghazi hai Pairahaan*, says, "His (Manto's) stories unsettle us because they take us to the darker, brutal corners of our psyche, to desires repressed and ugliness that settles." Which seems so true once we start exploring the emotional layers within Manto's writings, where he wrote extensively about the twisted and dark corners of human psyche at the backdrop of partition. In times like these where reality is too hard to bear, when we either try to insulate ourselves from socio-political realities in

order to not become 'too political', or we turn a blind eye because that's an easier way out anyway, reading about Manto and his *afsaane* (stories) is a challenge in itself, because it questions way too many complexities of life, of society, of your own privilege, while stirring the very core of our innate emotions. Manto speaks directly to our emotions, and his writings create anxiety amongst those who tried their best to preserve the status quo. While drawing the juncture between religion, national identity and patriarchy quite skillfully in almost all of his short stories, Manto tried understanding the political underpinnings of female body, over which communal hatred was played on. The intersection of gender-based violence with religious hatred in his stories point at the grim reality of society where female bodies are still used to inflict violence and showcase the domination of power of one religious sect over the other. There's a prevailing idea of deriving pleasure by inflicting pain on the fellow individual who belongs to a different community.

Manto was also writing realism, by focusing on his cultural milieu. To demand that every progressive writer concentrates on the lives of millworkers, apart from seriously limiting the context of social concern, aims to control (manipulate, dull) the unfathomable promise of the writer, even understood as an agent of social change. Something Manto undoubtedly was. To treat the writer as an appendage of the revolution demeans both, the writer and revolution. Manto was a difficult lover, friend and writer. He wrote at a time when it was difficult for a writer of his sensibility to write. Manto is our contemporary, not because he could see what was coming ahead of him, but because he could accurately detect the unresolved barbarism of his time that would return to haunt us. A truly contemporary writer is always a misfit for her times. She fits her times too violently, for it to bear all of her. Manto is our double, the one we are scared to remember. Can we bear Manto today, just because we eulogise him?

Passage



1. Identify the structure of the above given passage

- A. Investigative B. Chronological C. Contrast and compare D. Descriptive

2. Antonym of the word RADICAL given in the passage is:

- A. Fundamental B. Conservative C. Extreme D. Innate

3. The author's attitude toward Premchand can be best described as which of the following?

- A. Positive appreciation B. Apathetic objectivity C. Overweening pride D. Mild acceptance

4. The word INFLICT has been correctly used in which of the following sentences:

- A. The goal of the discussion was to inflict the Tariff Act of 1832. B. The organization works to inflict world hunger and disease. C. The company plans to inflict more than 2,000 jobs in the coming year. D. Their ability to inflict carnage will rise in the future.

5. Give a suitable title to above given passage.

- A. Manto: a historic figure B. Manto: the narcissist C. Manto: the revolutionary D. Manto: the conformist

142. Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

Tea began as a medicine and grew into a beverage. In China, in the eighth century, it entered the realm of poetry as one of the polite amusements. The fifteenth century saw Japan ennoble it into a religion of aestheticism-- Teatism. Teatism is a cult founded on the adoration of the beautiful among the sordid

facts of everyday existence. It inculcates purity and harmony, the mystery of mutual charity, the romanticism of the social order. It is essentially a worship of the Imperfect, as it is a tender attempt to accomplish something possible in this impossible thing we know as life.

The Philosophy of Tea is not mere aestheticism in the ordinary acceptance of the term, for it expresses conjointly with ethics and religion our whole point of view about man and nature. It is hygiene, for it enforces cleanliness; it is economics, for it shows comfort in simplicity rather than in the complex and costly; it is moral geometry, inasmuch as it defines our sense of proportion to the universe. It represents the true spirit of Eastern democracy by making all its votaries aristocrats in taste.

The long isolation of Japan from the rest of the world, so conducive to introspection, has been highly favourable to the development of Teatism. Our home and habits, costume and cuisine, porcelain, lacquer, painting-- our very literature--all have been subject to its influence. No student of Japanese culture could ever ignore its presence. It has permeated the elegance of noble boudoirs, and entered the abode of the humble. Our peasants have learned to arrange flowers, our meanest labourer to offer his salutation to the rocks and waters. In our common parlance we speak of the man "with no tea" in him, when he is unsusceptible to the seriocomic interests of the personal drama. Again, we stigmatise the untamed aesthete who, regardless of the mundane tragedy, runs riot in the springtide of emancipated emotions, as one "with too much tea" in him.

1. The inferences that CANNOT be drawn from the passage:

- A. Tea might be a cup of human enjoyment, but it makes one vulnerable to the seriocomic interests and the mundane tragedies of life.

Passage



B. Tea is more than a drink and more than an art, it is integrated in the culture and the mind.

C. Tea is more than a drink and the tea ceremony is understood and practiced in Japan to foster harmony in humanity, promote harmony with nature, discipline the mind, quiet the heart, and attain the purity of enlightenment, the art of tea becomes teaism.

D. Teaism is mostly a simplistic mode of aesthetics, but there are subtle insights into ethics, and even metaphysics.

2. Antonym of the word ACCOMPLISH given in the passage is:

- A. Negotiate B. Achieve
C. Disconcert D. Execute

3. The statement which appropriately summarizes the above given passage is:

- A. Tea is a drink of nobles and elites who understand its aesthetics.
B. Tea represents the imperfect in the perfect world.
C. Teaism remained under-developed partly due to Japan's long isolation from the rest of the world.
D. Tea is more than a drink and more than an art, it is integrated in the culture.

4. Tea is a :

- A. Drink of intellect B. Drink of transformation
C. Drink of simplicity D. Drink of generosity

5. Which of the statements is FALSE according to the above given passage:

- A. Teaism is the word for the "religion of aestheticism," which has grown up around tea in Japanese culture.

B. Teaism consist of everything from hygiene to economics to literature to democracy.

C. Teaism adores isolation, gratifying the sordid and abominable facts of everyday existence.

D. Teaism celebrates the beautiful, the pure, and the pleasant.

143. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasised the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to

Passage



eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.

Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 which gave them 30 per cent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads throughout the country. The National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women's issues

1. Which of these qualities of modern women has Not been mentioned in the passage?

- A. rational
- B. careful
- C. superstitious
- D. dignified

2. Which of the following is true?

- A. Political empowerment of women affects the human development index.
- B. 20% seats are reserved for women in village panchayats.
- C. There is no hindrance in the way of women enjoying their rights.
- D. Education of women leads to education of the whole family

3. According to the passage, which single factor can play a crucial role in improving the lives of women?

- A. Marriage
- B. Education
- C. Charity
- D. Respect

4. In the context of the passage, educating women is not a charity because

- A. women can afford to pay for their education
- B. it would uplift their status in society
- C. women would educate others in return
- D. it would yield economic and social benefits

5. enduring solution' in the first paragraph means

- A. an inconsistent solution
- B. a temporary solution
- C. an amicable solution
- D. a lasting solution

144. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Maharana Pratap ruled over Mewar only for 25 years. However, he accomplished so much grandeur during his reign that his glory surpassed the boundaries of countries and time, turning him into an immortal personality. He along with his kingdom became a synonym for valour, sacrifice and patriotism. Mewar had been a leading Rajput Kingdom even before Maharana Pratap occupied the throne. Kings of Mewar, with the cooperation of their nobles and subjects, had established such traditions in the kingdom, as augmented their magnificence despite the hurdles of having a smaller area under their command and less population. There did come a few thorny occasions when the flag of the kingdom seemed sliding down. Their flag once again heaved high in the sky thanks to the gallantry and brilliance of the people of Mewar.

The destiny of Mewar was good in the sense that barring a few kings, most of the rulers were

Passage



competent and patriotic. This glorious tradition of the kingdom almost continued for 1500 years since its establishment, right from the region of Bappa Rawal. In fact only 60 years before Maharana Pratap, Rana Sanga drove the kingdom to the pinnacle of fame. His reputation went beyond Rajasthan and reached Delhi.

Two generations before him, Rana Kumbha had given a new stature to the kingdom through victories and developmental work. During his reign, literature and art also progressed extraordinarily. Rana himself was inclined towards writing and his works are read with reverence even today. The ambience of his kingdom was conducive to the creation of high quality work of art and literature. However, in a patricide he was killed by his son Udai Singh.

The life of the people of Mewar must have been peaceful and prosperous during the long span of time; otherwise, such extraordinary accomplishment in these fields would not have been possible. This is reflected in their art and literature as well as their loving nature. They compensate for lack of admirable physique by their firm but pleasant nature. The ambience of Mewar remains lovely thanks to the cheerful and liberal character of its people. One may observe astonishing pieces of workmanship not only in the forts and palaces of Mewar but also in public utility buildings. Ruins of many structures which are still standing tall in their grandeur are testimony to the fact that Mewar was not only the land of the brave but also a seat of art and culture. Amidst aggression and bloodshed, literature and art flourished and creative pursuits of literature and artists did not suffer. Imagine, how glorious the period must have been when the Vijaya Stambha which is the sample of our great ancient architecture even today, was constructed.

1. Which of these was Maharana Pratap NOT famous for?

- A. love for his motherland
- B. extraordinary courage
- C. spirit of sacrifice
- D. vast kingdom

2. Which word in the passage means 'enhanced'?

- A. Inclined
- B. Compensated
- C. Augmented
- D. Accomplished

3. Which ruler took Mewar to the zenith of fame before the reign of Maharana Pratap?

- A. Bappa Rawal
- B. Udai Singh
- C. Rana Kumbha
- D. Rana Sangha

4. The glorious tradition of the kingdom of Mewar lasted for

- A. 25 years
- B. 1500 years
- C. 60 years
- D. 250 years

5. Mewar may be considered fortunate because

- A. Most of the rulers were capable and patriotic.
- B. the Vijaya Stambha was constructed here
- C. Rana Kumbha wrote great works that are still respected
- D. the people were cheerful and liberal

145. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

If you've ever wanted to start a podcast, now would be the perfect time to do it. The medium is hotter than it's ever been and continues to grow at a lightning-fast pace. Moreover, people often prefer listening to audio content over reading it.

There are so many reasons for starting a podcast! Some of those reasons are to grow your business, connect with people in your niche, create a relationship with your audience, and self-fulfillment.

Passage



As of January 2020, there are over 1 million podcasts available, with over 30 million podcast episodes to listen to. These numbers might be intimidating, but armed with the right tools and information, it won't be difficult for you to carve out a niche for yourself in podcasting. Many companies create a podcast to promote their products and services. Of course, some podcasts succeed while others are not well-known in the industry. The quality of your show can make all of the difference. Listeners are looking for an engaging and entertaining show that makes them return to it every week for the latest episode – deliver it, and you can easily make money and find prestige with podcasting.

1. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word 'medium' as used in the second sentence?

- A. instrument B. agent C. middle D. intermediate

2. Another word in the passage that can replace the underlined word in the phrase 'to promote their products and services' is

- A. approve B. sanction C. boost D. certify

3. Select the correct inference we can draw from the passage.

- A. All podcasts have succeeded so far.
B. There are too many podcasts available today.
C. Podcasts are a feature of the previous decade.
D. The industry for podcasts is just growing.

4. What can best make a podcast business thrive?

- A. Marketing B. Quality
C. Quantity D. Investments

5. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word 'intimidating' in the passage?

- A. Kindly B. Alarming

- C. Sympathetic D. Approachable

146. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

As President Trump raged against the book "Fire and Fury" threatening legal action, the publishers quickly published it days ahead of schedule. However, this is not a new phenomenon, several governments the world over have banned books due to some reason or the other. "Alice in Wonderland" was banned in China's Hunan province by the Governor as far back as 1931.

The primary reason for the ban was because the censor general believed attribution of animals acting like humans with the same complexity was an "insult". The Chinese believed teaching children to have animals and humans on the same level could prove to be disastrous.

India hasn't been too far behind while banning books, it is surely not a recent phenomenon, "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie came much later. VS Naipaul's 1964 book "An Area of Darkness" was banned in 1964 for "negatively portraying India". The book is still on the "banned list" 60 years later.

The book which is in the form of a travelogue looks at India through the eyes of an "outsider". The book looked at India's caste system, poverty and nostalgia for the British Raj which did not go well with Indian authorities in the 60s. The book written by Professor Stanley Wolpert was banned in Pakistan in 1984 by general Zia's government. The book was banned in Pakistan for "misinterpreting" the Jinnah.

The Pakistan government requested Wolpert to delete a few pages but the author rejected it. Benazir's government however allowed the book to be brought back and it went on sale after 1989. The iconic novel "Dr Zivago", written by Boris Pasternak, was banned by Soviet Union in the 1950s. It was smuggled to Italy and then published in Milan but

Passage



Pasternak won the Noble Prize for literature. Some passages were declared "anti-Soviet" as authorities believed it portrayed individualism over socialist ideas and was critical towards communism. The book was later adapted into a Hollywood film starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie and became even more famous. The Soviet government, however, lifted the ban after 1988 and it became freely available after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The Bangladesh government banned "Lajja" (shame) written by Taslima Nasreen in 1993. The book was published later but Taslima was forced to flee Bangladesh after receiving death threats. The Bangladeshi writer still hasn't returned home living in India and elsewhere in Europe since then. The book has been translated into several languages. The book talked about the plight of Hindus in aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolitions in 1992.

1. Which word/ phrase can replace the underlined word in the sentence?

"The iconic novel written by Boris Pasternak...."

- A. religious B. shocking C. unholy and sacrilegious D. classic and popular

2. The most suitable title for this passage is

- A. Reasons for disliking some books B. Stories behind prohibition of famous books C. People who have taken offence to books D. Reasons why books should have been banned

3. Which word is the most appropriate antonym of 'disastrous' as used in the passage?

- A. fortunate B. terrible C. disadvantageous D. fatal

4. Who won the Nobel Prize for his work?

- A. Sharif B. Rushdie

- C. Wolpert D. Pasternak

5. Which of the following countries did not ban any book?

- A. Italy B. China C. India D. Pakistan

147. Read the passage and select the correct options to answer the questions.

Kadbanwadi, a small village in Maharashtra's Pune district, is surrounded by greenery but receives very little rainfall. Its residents have battled water scarcity for decades and have turned to community conservation of the region's environmental resources to circumvent the problem and leave behind a healthy habitat for posterity.

Kadbanwadi means 'a place surrounded by forest'. A 500-hectare patch of grassland skirts the village, with Neem, Babul and Ber trees dotting it. It is also home to many other important species of flora and fauna like the Indian wolf and the Indian gazelle (Chinkara).

The grassland around the village was creatively utilised to create water conservation structures and parts of it were declared prohibited for open grazing. Structures for providing water for the wildlife during summers were also created. This approach has resulted in significant improvement in the state of biodiversity and water availability here.

A 20-acre abandoned forest land located within the village was converted into an 'oxygen park' by the residents. The story of how the village came together to make this possible without government funding can inspire conservation efforts across the country to circumvent environmental crises and impacts of climate change. The idea of creating this park was first articulated by Bhajandas Pawar, a retired science teacher and a former sarpanch of this village. The land located away from the surrounding grassland was largely neglected by the forest department. The idea was to plant trees of the

Passage



varieties that are not very frequently found in the grassland.

With help from environmentalists from Pune city, the villagers planted around 700 saplings of Peepal, Tamarind, Jamun, Bahawa, Banyan, among other trees. The money needed for this work was contributed by the people involved in this initiative. A farmer supplies water from his farm for the trees and villagers visit the park every evening to look after them. All the saplings planted in the park have survived and are rapidly flourishing. The state's forest minister visited the park on its first anniversary. Taking inspiration from the success of this initiative, similar initiatives are being taken up in some other villages in the area.

1. The passage is a:

- A. Narrative piece
- B. Travelogue
- C. Descriptive piece
- D. Report

2. Which word in the passage means the same as - 'come forward'?

- A. circumvent
- B. Impact
- C. Initiative
- D. Frequently

3. What is the 'oxygen park' referred to in the passage?

- A. A barren land converted into a forest by planting lots of trees.
- B. A piece of land in town developed by the forest ministry.
- C. A piece of forest land owned by the sarpanch of the village.
- D. A place in the nearby village where the villagers could go and relax.

4. What is the irony contained in the opening paragraph of the passage?

- A. Small village yet no rainfall.
- B. No water in the present but plenty for posterity.
- C. A lot of greenery though very little rainfall.
- D. Community coming together for conservation yet no rainfall.

5. What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. Development of water resources.
- B. Conservation initiatives taken up by the villagers.
- C. Coping with scarce rainfall.
- D. Many agencies working together for the benefit of the villagers.

148. Read the passage and select the options that answer the questions.

Technology has impacted almost every aspect of life today, and education is no exception. Or is it? In some ways, education seems much the same as it has been for many years. The teacher lectures from a podium at the front of the room while the students sit in rows and listen. Some of the students have books open in front of them and appear to be following along. A few look bored. Some are talking to their neighbours. Classrooms today do not look much different, though you might find modern students looking at their laptops, tablets, or smart phones instead of books.

Technology has profoundly changed education. For one, technology has greatly expanded access to education. Today, massive amounts of information (books, audio, images, videos) is available at one's fingertips through the Internet, and opportunities for formal learning are available online worldwide. Opportunities for communication and collaboration have also been expanded by technology.

Passage



Traditionally, classrooms have been relatively isolated, and collaboration has been limited to other students in the same classroom or building. Today, technology enables forms of communication and collaboration undreamt of in the past. Students in a classroom in the rural U.S., for example, can learn about the Arctic by following the expedition of a team of scientists in the region, read scientists' blog posting, view photos, e-mail questions to the scientists, and even talk live with the scientists via a videoconference. Students can share what they are learning with students in other classrooms in other states. Students can collaborate on group projects using technology-based tools such as wikis and Google docs. The walls of the classrooms are no longer a barrier as technology enables new ways of learning, communicating, and working collaboratively.

Technology has also begun to change the roles of teachers and learners. In the traditional classroom the teacher is the primary source of information and the learners passively receive it. This model of the teacher as the "sage on the stage" has been in education for a long time, and it is still very much in evidence today. However, in many classrooms today we see the teacher's role shifting to the "guide on the side" as students take more responsibility for their own learning using technology to gather relevant information. Schools and universities across the country are beginning to redesign learning spaces to enable this new model of education, foster more interaction and small group work, and use technology as an enabler.

1. Which of these has NOT been mentioned as an impact of technology on education?

- A. Access to enormous amount of information.
B. Technology has broken the barriers of the classroom walls.
C. Many educational courses available online.

D. It has made formal education accessible to everyone in the world.

2. Which word/phrase in the passage means 'to work together'?

- A. Working collaboratively
B. Gather relevant information
C. Opportunities for formal learning.
D. Redesign work spaces

3. In the context of the passage what does 'sage on the stage' refer to?

- A. Teachers treated as holy people.
B. Teachers who take classes on the stage.
C. Modern teachers who teach online.
D. Traditional teacher who is supposed to know everything.

4. Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'lively'?

- A. collaboratively B. traditionally
C. passively D. greatly

5. Which of these structures does the passage follow?

- A. Statement and examples B. Compare and contrast
C. Cause and effect D. Chronological order

149. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

In a damp fourteen-by-twenty-foot laboratory in Boston on a December morning in 1947, a man named Sidney Farber waited impatiently for the arrival of a parcel from New York. The "laboratory" was little more than a chemist's closet, a poorly ventilated room buried in a half basement of the Children's Hospital, almost thrust into its back alley.

Passage



A few hundred feet away, the hospital's medical wards were slowly thrumming to work. Children in white smocks moved restlessly on small wrought-iron cots. Doctors and nurses shuttled busily between the rooms, checking charts, writing orders, and dispensing medicines. But Farber's lab was listless and empty, a bare warren of chemicals and glass jars connected to the main hospital through a series of icy corridors. The sharp stench of embalming formalin wafted through the air. There were no patients in the rooms here, just the bodies and tissues of patients brought down through the tunnels for autopsies and examinations. Farber was a pathologist his job involved dissecting specimens, performing autopsies, identifying cells, and diagnosing diseases, but never treating patients.

Farber's specialty was paediatric pathology, the study of children's diseases. He had spent nearly twenty years in these subterranean rooms staring obsessively down his microscope and climbing through the academic ranks to become chief of pathology at Children's Hospital. But for Farber, pathology was becoming a disjunctive form of medicine, a discipline more preoccupied with the dead than with the living. Farber now felt impatient watching illness from its side-lines, never touching or treating a live patient. He was tired of tissues and cells. He felt trapped, embalmed in his own glassy cabinet.

And so, Farber had decided to make a drastic professional switch. Instead of squinting at inert specimens under his lens, he would try to leap into the life of the clinics upstairs – from the microscopic world of patients and illnesses he would try to use the knowledge he had gathered from his pathological specimens to devise new therapeutic interventions. The parcel from New York contained a few vials of a yellow crystalline chemical named aminopterin. It had been shipped to his laboratory in Boston on the

slim hope that it might halt the growth of leukaemia in children.

1. The discussion of a pathologist in a Children's hospital implies that the overall tone of the passage is

- A. Persuasive
- B. Hopeful
- C. Mysterious
- D. Lethargic

2. Out of the following which one has the opposite meaning to the word listless in the passage?

- A. Lethargic
- B. Languid
- C. Enervated
- D. Energetic

3. The word Subterranean has been correctly used in which of the following sentences:

- A. Mary felt subterranean when she learned the results of the election.
- B. He shivered at the sight of the night-blooming flowers and the subterranean ocean in front of him.
- C. The scientist snarled as she leapt from her subterranean tunnel out into the sunlight, on to the bloodstained sand.
- D. Few music composers can match his subterranean output.

4. According to the passage, Sidney Faber, a paediatric pathologist strives to

- A. Shift to Boston to carry out his research on cancer
- B. Test a new drug to device therapeutic interventions for cancer in children
- C. Become chief of pathology at Children's Hospital
- D. Collect pathological specimens to develop new therapeutic interventions in the field of cancer

Passage



5. Identify the structure of the passage given above.

- A. Persuasive B. Chronological C. Humorous D. Investigative

150. Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions:

The tricky part of illness is that, as you go through it, your values are constantly changing. You try to figure out what matters to you, and then you keep figuring it out. It felt like someone had taken away my credit card and I was having to learn how to budget. You may decide you want to spend your time working as a neurosurgeon, but two months later you may feel differently.

Two months after that, you may want to learn to play the saxophone or devote yourself to the church. Death maybe one-time event but living with terminal illness is a process. It struck me that I had traversed the five stages of grief – the “denial, anger, beginning, depression, acceptance” cliché – but I had done it all backward. On diagnosis, I had been prepared for death. I had even felt good about it. I had accepted it. I had been ready. Then I slumped into a depression as it became clear that I might not be dying so soon after all, which is, of course good news, but also confusing and strangely enervating. The rapidity of the cancer science, and the nature of the statistics, meant I might live another twelve months, or another 120. Grand illnesses are supposed to be life clarifying. Instead, I knew I was going to die – but I had known that before. My state of knowledge was the same, but my ability to make lunch plans had been shot to hell. The way forward would seem obvious, if only I knew how many months or years I had left. Tell me three months, I would spend time with family.

Tell me one year, I would write a book. Give me ten years, I would get back to treating diseases. The truth

that you live one day at a time did not help what was I supposed to do with that day? At some point, then, I began to do little bargaining – or not exactly bargaining. More like: “God, I have read the Bible, and I don't understand it, but if this is a test of faith, you now realise my feed is fairly weak, and probably leaving the spicy mustard off the pastrami sandwich would also have tested it. You didn't have to go nuclear on me, you know...” Then after the bargaining, came flashes of anger: “I work my whole life to get to this point, and then you give me cancer?” And now, finally, maybe I had arrived at denial. Maybe total denial. Maybe, in the absence of any certainty we should just assume that we are going to live a long time. Maybe that's the only way forward.

1. According to the passage, the following is true

- A. The narrator is a doctor suffering from cancer B. The narrator is motivational speaker for cancer patients C. The narrator is a patient suffering from cancer D. The narrator is a doctor treating cancer patients

2. The expression, “tricky part of illness” infers

- A. The narrator is being rational about death, looking at it not as the end of the world B. The narrator is working towards death; deferring gratification, waiting to live, learning to die C. The narrator has tremendous fear of dying, petrified of it D. The narrator has tremendous courage, ready to face the death head-on

3. Out of the following which one has the similar meaning to the word enervating in the passage?

- A. Enlightening B. Exhausting C. Levitating D. Entertaining

Passage



4. This passage makes the reader

- A. Morbid about death B. Lethargic about death C. Excited about death D. Think about death

5. The word slumped in the passage means

- A. Sustained B. Soared C. Collated D. Collapsed

151. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Cardamom, the queen of all spices, has a history as old as the human race. It is the dried fruit of a herbaceous perennial plant. Warm humid climate, loamy soil rich in organic matter, distributed rainfall and special cultivation and processing methods all combine to make Indian cardamom truly unique in aroma, flavour, size and it has a parrot green colour.

Two types of cardamom are produced in India. The first type is the large one, which has not much significance as it is not traded in the future market. It is cultivated in north-eastern area of the country. The second type is produced in the southern states and these are traded in the future market. These are mainly cultivated in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka.

The main harvest season of cardamom in India is between August-February. Cardamom reaches at yielding stage two years after the plantation. The primary physical markets of cardamom are Kumily Vandennodu, Jhekkady, Puliyarmala in Kerala and Bodynaikkaur and Cumbum in Tamilnadu. Kerala is the main producer of cardamom and contributes upto 60% in total production. Karnataka produces around 25% of the total production of cardamom. Ooty is the main producer of cardamom in Tamilnadu and contributes around 10-15% of the total production. Besides India, Guatemala also produces around 1,000-2,000 ton cardamom per year. Due to low quality of cardamom from Guatemala, it remains available at cheaper rates.

1. Which word in the passage is the same in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

Nutritionists believe that the banana is an extraordinary fruit.

- A. Nutritious B. Unique C. Clear D. Simple

2. Identify the most apt title for the passage from the options below:

- A. Cardamom, the Queen of Spices B. The cardamom trade C. Kerala, the spice bowl. D. Cardamom, key spice of India

3. What is the central theme of the passage?

- A. It is an account of the abundant variety of spices in India. B. It is a commentary about spice export from India. C. It is a description of different seasons in India D. It is a description of the history of cardamom production in India.

4. Identify the tone of the passage from the options below:

- A. Confrontational B. Descriptive C. Animated D. Pessimistic

5. What is the antonym for primary?

- A. Leading B. Single C. Debased D. Minor

152. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Throughout human history the leading causes of death have been infection and trauma. Modern medicine has scored significant victories against both, and the major causes of ill health and death are

Passage



now the chronic degenerative disease, such as coronary artery disease, arthritis, cataract and cancer. These have a long latency period before symptoms appear and a diagnosis is made. It follows that the majority of apparently healthy people are pre-ill.

Many national surveys reveal that malnutrition is common in developed countries. This is not the calorie or micronutrient deficiency associated with developing nation; but multiple micronutrients depletion, usually combined with calorific balance or excess. The incidence and severity of Type B malnutrition will be shown to be worse if newer micronutrients groups such as the essential fatty acids and flavonoids are included in the surveys. However, the pharmaceutical model has also created an unhealthy dependency culture, in which relatively few of us accept responsibility for maintaining our own health. Instead, we have handed over this responsibility to health professional who know very little about health maintenance or disease prevention.

Based on pharmaceutical thinking, most intervention studies have attempted to measure the impact of a single micronutrient on the incidence of disease. The classical approach says that if you give a compound formula to test subjects and obtain positive results, you cannot know which ingredient is exerting the benefit, so you must test each ingredient individually. So do we need to analyse each individual's nutritional status and then tailor a formula specifically for him or her? While we do not have the resources to analyse millions of individual cases, there is no need to do so. The vast majority of people are consuming suboptimal amounts of most micronutrients, and most of the micronutrients concerned are very safe. Accordingly, a comprehensive and universal program of micronutrient support is probably the most cost-

effective and safest way of improving the general health of the nation.

1. Choose the best option that explains the meaning of the following word, in context of the passage:

Depletion

- A. A reduction in the number or quantity of something
- B. A growth of illness as aging happens
- C. A lack of nutrition in all available foods
- D. A debilitated condition of arthritic patients

2. Which title is most suitable for the passage?

- A. What are micronutrients?
- B. Role of micronutrients in managing good health
- C. Malnutrition rampant in developed nations
- D. The cause of human death

3. Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in this sentence:

What is the reason behind the marathoner conserving all his energy in the last mile?

- A. Mastering
- B. Controlling
- C. Exerting
- D. Saving

4. What are fatty acids and flavonoids?

- A. A new ingredient that exists in chocolates
- B. Ingredients of an exclusive kind of fish
- C. New essential micronutrients
- D. Some chemicals that liver excretes

5. According to the author, what is the core reason for lack of micronutrients in all kinds of populations?

- A. Because of loss of many micronutrients which happen due to dieting or overeating.

Passage



- B. No testing of blood parameters is done
- C. Because of old age
- D. Genetic manipulation of staples has robbed food of all nutritional value

153. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

I did not sleep well, though my bed was comfortable enough for I had all sorts of queer dreams. There was a dog howling all night under my window, which may have had something to do with it; or it may have been the paprika, for I had to drink up all the water in my carafe, and was still thirsty. Towards morning I slept and was wakened by the knocking at my door, I had to hurry breakfast, for the train started a little before eight. All-day long we seemed to dawdle through a country which was full of beauty of every kind. Sometimes we saw little towns or castles on the top of steep hills; sometimes we ran by rivers and streams which seemed from the wide stony margin on each side of them to be subject to great floods. It takes a lot of water and running strong, to sweep the outside edge of a river clear.

At every station, there were groups of people, sometimes crowds, and in all sorts of attire. Some of them were just like the peasants at home or those I saw coming through France and Germany, with short jackets, and round hats, and home-made trousers; but others were very picturesque. It was on the dark side of twilight when we got to Bistritz, which is a very interesting old place. Being practically on the frontier, it has had a very stormy existence and it certainly shows marks of it. Fifty years ago, a series of great fires took place which made terrible havoc on five separate occasions. At the very beginning of the seventeenth century, it underwent a siege of three weeks and lost 13,000 people, the casualties of war proper being assisted by famine and disease.

Count Dracula had directed me to go to the Golden Krone Hotel, which I found, to my great delight, to be thoroughly old-fashioned, for, of course, I wanted to see all I could of the ways of the country.

I was evidently expected, for when I got near the door I faced a cheery-looking elderly man named Hugo in the usual peasant dress... When I came close he bowed and said, "The Herr Englishman?" "Yes," I said, "Jonathan Harker.

1. dawdle' through a country suggests that the train

- A. was lingering slowly
- B. was hurrying through the countryside
- C. was stationed at one place
- D. was running without any halts

2. What was the narrator's name?

- A. Golden Krone B. Count Dracula
- C. Hugo D. Jonathan Harker

3. Why wasn't the narrator able to sleep well?

- A. There was a loud knocking at his door.
- B. He was disturbed by strange dreams.
- C. His bed was uncomfortable.
- D. He had to catch an early morning train

4. Which of these was NOT visible from the train?

- A. little towns B. rivers and streams
- C. castles on top of hills D. casualties of war

5. How many lives were estimated to have been lost in Bistritz?

- A. five thousand B. thirteen thousand
- C. fifty thousand D. seventeen thousand

Passage



154. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

A stout old lady was walking with her basket down the middle of a street in Petrograd to the great confusion of the traffic and with no small peril to herself. It was pointed out to her that the pavement was the place for pedestrians, but she replied: 'I'm going to walk where I like. We've got liberty now.' It did not occur to the dear old lady that if liberty entitled the pedestrian to walk down the middle of the road, then the end of such liberty would be universal chaos. Everybody would be getting in everybody else's way and nobody would get anywhere. Individual liberty would have become social anarchy.

There is a danger of the world getting liberty-drunk these days like the old lady with the basket, and it is just as well to remind ourselves of what the rule of the road means. It means that in order that the liberties of all may be preserved, the liberties of everybody must be curtailed. When the policeman, at Piccadilly Circus steps into the middle of the road and puts out his hand, he is the symbol not of tyranny but of liberty. You may not think so. You may, being in a hurry, and seeing your car pulled up by this insolence of office, feel that your liberty has been outraged. How dare this fellow interfere with your free use of the public highway? Then if you are a reasonable person, you will reflect that if he did not interfere with you, he would interfere with no one, and the result would be that Piccadilly Circus would be a maelstrom that you would never cross at all. You have submitted to a curtailment of private liberty in order that you may enjoy a social order which makes your liberty a reality. Liberty is not a personal affair only but a social contract. It is an accommodation of interests.

In matters which do not touch anybody else's liberty, of course, I may be as free as I like. If I choose to go down the road in a dressing-gown, who shall say me

may? You have the liberty to laugh at me, but I have the liberty to be indifferent to you. And if I have a fancy for dyeing my hair, or waxing my moustache (which heaven forbid), or wearing an overcoat and sandals, or going to bed late or getting up early, I shall follow my fancy and ask no man's permission. In all these and a thousand other details, you and I please ourselves and ask no one's leave. We have a whole kingdom in which we rule alone, can do what we choose, be wise or ridiculous, harsh or easy, conventional or odd. But directly we step out of that kingdom, our personal liberty of action becomes qualified by other people's liberty. I might like to practice on the trombone from midnight till three in the morning. If I went on to the top of Everest to do it, I could please myself, but if I do it in my bedroom, my family will object, and if I do it out in the streets, the neighbours will remind me that my liberty to blow the trombone must not interfere with their liberty to sleep in quiet. There are a lot of people in the world, and I have to accommodate my liberty to their liberties. We are all liable to forget this, and unfortunately, we are much more conscious of the imperfections of others in this respect than of our own. A reasonable consideration for the rights or feelings of others is the foundation of social conduct.

1. Where was the old lady walking in Petrograd?

- A. on the pavement
- B. in the middle of the street
- C. on the public highway
- D. along the side of the road

2. What is the message of the given passage?

- A. lead your life as you wish
- B. Do not violate traffic rules
- C. Look for imperfections in others
- D. Liberty is a social contract

Passage



3. Which of these does Not fall within our personal sphere of liberty?

- A. freedom to dress as we like
B. freedom to be conventional in approach
C. freedom to play loud music late at night
D. freedom to sleep or wake at will

4. What is the rule of the road?

- A. to use public highways freely
B. to get in the way of others
C. to oppose the freedom exercised by others
D. to be considerate about others' liberty

5. What is the biggest danger to the world today according to the author?

- A. people becoming insolent
B. people being forced to follow rules
C. people driving recklessly
D. people becoming liberty-drunk

155. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

I was born in the small but beautiful mountain village of Nakuri near Uttarkashi in Garhwal, with the gurgling, playful Bhagirathi river flowing nearby. My parents were a hard-working and extremely self-contained couple. Even though our family was poor, barely managing the essentials, my father taught us how to live and maintain dignity and self-respect — the most treasured family value till today. At the same time my parents also practised the creed, —Kindness is the essence of all religion. They were large-hearted, inviting village folk passing by to have tea at our home, and gave grain to the sadhus and pandits who came to the house. This characteristic has been ingrained in me so deeply that I am able to

reach out to others and make a difference in their lives — whether it is in my home, in society or at the workplace. I was the third child in the family — girl, boy, girl, girl and boy in that order — and quite a rebel. I developed a tendency to ask questions and was not satisfied with the customary way of life for a girl-child. When I found my elder brother, Bachchan, encouraging our youngest brother, Raju, to take up mountaineering I thought, why not me? I found that my brothers were always getting preferential treatment and all opportunities and options were open to them. This made me even more determined to not only do what the boys were doing, but to do it better. The general thinking of mountain people was that mountaineering as a sport was not for them. They considered themselves to be born mountaineers as they had to go up and down mountain slopes for their daily livelihood and even for routine work. On the other hand, as a student, I would look curiously at foreign backpackers passing by my village and wonder where they were going. I would even invite them to my house and talk to them to learn more about their travels. The full significance of this came to me later when I started working. The foreigners took the trouble to come all the way to the Himalayas in order to educate themselves on social, cultural and scientific aspects of mountaineering, as well as to seek peace in nature's gigantic scheme of things

1. Which word from the passage means the opposite of 'customary'?

- A. Foreign B. Cultural C. Exceptional D. determined

2. We can infer that the 'I' in the passage is

- A. A specially- abled child B. A young boy
C. A young girl D. An old woman

3. What was the main belief of the writer's parents?

- A. to teach the children mountaineering

Passage



- B. to be kind to everyone
- C. to feed everyone they could
- D. to educate their children well

4. Why was mountaineering not considered a sport by the people of the village?

- A. They thought it was too risky.
- B. They were born mountaineers.
- C. They believed it required too much practice.
- D. They had no time or teachers to learn it.

5. How many sisters did the writer have?

- A. Two
- B. Four
- C. Five
- D. Three

156. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Inland waterways have been accorded a central role in maritime development in India. The National Waterways Act 2016, has declared 111 rivers or river stretches, creeks, estuaries in India as National Waterways. Navigation in rivers, lakes and other water bodies by smaller vessels connecting places not far from each other has been around for centuries, and been the mainstay of our inland waterways. In a few cases, especially near ports and coastal areas, this has also evolved to large-scale, commercial shipping. The national waterways project now intends to create such large-scale, commercial shipping and navigation systems in all these 111 waterways. These are expected to realise the potential of cargo and passenger traffic, including tourism and cruise, offer seamless connectivity at lower per-unit cost and make transportation more efficient. The project, in its entire implementation and operation phase, would generate a series of forward and backward linkages with prospects to penetrate deep into the economy. The multiplier

effect of the investment and its linkages can result in a virtuous cycle of all-round growth. This potential virtuous cycle, however, can well be interrupted if implementation of the network is not well coordinated. Besides, there are other challenges.

The National Waterways Act mandates the Central Government to regulate these waterways for systematic and orderly development of shipping and navigation activities. Spread across the Eastern, Western, Southern and Central regions of the country, these waterways cover nearly 15000 kilometres across 24 states and two union territories. They include the country's 138 river systems, creeks, estuaries and related canal systems, and can be utilised as a channel to move passengers and cargo within the country and to the neighbouring countries.

The waterways are also proposed to be linked to the eastern and western Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), as well as the Sagarmala Project, which aims to promote port-led direct and indirect development. The linkages are being planned in a manner such that commodities and cargo can be swapped/shifted from and to the waterways, the DFCs and road transport. The inland waterway in its full scope is conceived as part of an ambition to link several big infrastructure projects.

Inland waterway network has no continuous connectivity. It requires a multimodal network comprising water bodies and roadways, including culverts, bridges etc, to be developed. This involves investment in a large number of activities to be carried out for infrastructure development. Some of the port/terminals, such as Varanasi are planned as multimodal hubs which will connect rail, road and waterways. Moreover, the Integrated National Waterways Transportation Grid plans to link many of the national waterways to each other and also to roads, railways and major ports. The capital cost of the Grid is estimated at Rs. 22,763 crores with phase-I (2015-18) estimated at INR 2,631 crore and

Passage



phase- II (2018-23) at INR 20,132 crore. In addition, setting up of a large number of ports/terminals, riverside jetties, godowns, boat building workshops, repairing yards and ancillary industries, will spur investment opportunities.

1. How much in INR will phase I of the Grid cost?

- A. 22,763 crores
- B. 20,132 crores
- C. 21,703 crores
- D. 2,631 crores

2. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- A. Water as a means of transport
- B. Ways of transportation and development
- C. Integrating waterways for development
- D. Inland Waterways-their advantages

3. The tone of the passage is

- A. Investigative
- B. Diagnostic
- C. Disapproving
- D. Informative

4. How long is the Grid project expected to take to be completed?

- A. Eight years
- B. Nine years
- C. Five years
- D. Ten years

5. Select the word which means the same as the underlined word in the sentence.

“In addition, setting up of a large number of ports/terminals, riverside jetties, godowns, boat building workshops, repairing yards and ancillary industries, will spur investment opportunities.”

- A. maintenance
- B. supplementary
- C. main
- D. funding

157. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie’s amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor of physics. At an early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master’s degree and doctorate in physics. Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heart-breaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress. Curie’s feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the world-famous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became

Passage



disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

1. What caused Pierre's death?

- A. exposure to radium
- B. disillusionment from research
- C. feeling of desolation
- D. horse-drawn carriage

2. The given passage is

- A. an article
- B. an autobiography
- C. a travelogue
- D. a biography

3. Marie had a bright mind and a _____ personality.

- A. Sprightly
- B. Envious
- C. Irritating
- D. Gloomy

4. Select the meaning of the word 'disgruntled' as used in the passage.

- A. disappointed and annoyed
- B. indifferent and callous
- C. bored and listless
- D. ruthless and bitter

5. Why did Marie leave Poland?

- A. to marry Pierre Curie
- B. to begin research on radium
- C. to meet great scientists of her time
- D. to pursue University education

158. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Conflict had existed between Spain and England since the 1570s. England wanted a share of the wealth that Spain had been taking from the lands it had claimed in the Americas. Elizabeth I, Queen of

England, encouraged her staunch admiral of the navy, Sir Francis Drake, to raid Spanish ships and towns. Though these raids were on a small scale, Drake achieved dramatic success, adding gold and silver to England's treasury and diminishing Spain's supremacy.

Religious differences also caused conflict between the two countries. Whereas Spain was Roman Catholic, most of England had become Protestant. King Philip II of Spain wanted to claim the throne and make England a Catholic country again. To satisfy his ambition and also to retaliate against England's theft of his gold and silver, King Philip began to build his fleet of warships, the Spanish Armada, in January 1586. Philip intended his fleet to be indestructible. In addition to building new warships, he marshalled 130 sailing vessels of all types and recruited more than 19,000 robust soldiers and 8,000 sailors. Although some of his ships lacked guns and others lacked ammunition, Philip was convinced that his Armada could withstand any battle with England.

The martial Armada set sail from Lisbon, Portugal, on May 9, 1588, but bad weather forced it back to port. The voyage finally resumed on July 22 after the weather became more stable. The Spanish fleet met the smaller, faster, and more manoeuvrable English ships in battle off the coast of Plymouth, England, first on July 31 and again on August 2. The two battles left Spain vulnerable, having lost several ships and with its ammunition depleted. On August 7, while the Armada lay at anchor on the French side of the Strait of Dover, England sent eight burning ships into the midst of the Spanish fleet to set it on fire. Blocked on one side, the Spanish ships could only drift away, their crews in panic and disorder. Before the Armada could regroup, the English attacked again on August 8. Although the Spaniards made a valiant effort to fight back, the fleet suffered extensive damage. During the eight hours of battle, the Armada drifted perilously close to the rocky coastline. At the

Passage



moment when it seemed that the Spanish ships would be driven onto the English shore, the wind shifted, and the Armada drifted out into the North Sea. The Spaniards recognized the superiority of the English fleet and returned home, defeated.

1. When did the Spanish Armada finally set sail?

- A. May 9, 1588
- B. August 7, 1588
- C. July 22, 1588
- D. July 31, 1588

2. What is the Spanish Armada?

- A. a Spanish martial race
- B. an army of Spanish soldiers
- C. a Spanish cruise ship
- D. a fleet of Spanish warships

3. Spain and England were in conflict since the 1570s because

- A. Spain had suffered heavy losses in battle.
- B. Spain had been taking wealth from English colonies in the Americas.
- C. King Philip was strengthening his army and navy.
- D. King Philip wanted to become the monarch of England.

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. The Spanish Armada was invincible.
- B. Sir Francis Drake added to England's wealth.
- C. Spain was a Roman Catholic country.
- D. The Spaniards recognized British supremacy after the defeat.

5. As compared to the Spanish fleet the British fleet was

- A. more manoeuvrable
- B. Slower
- C. Bigger
- D. more vulnerable

159. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

For many years now the Governments have been promising the eradication of child labour in hazardous industries in India. But the truth is that despite all the rhetoric no Government so far has succeeded in eradicating this evil, nor has any been able to ensure compulsory primary education for every Indian child. Between 60 and 100 million children are still at work instead of going to school, and around 10 million are working in hazardous industries. India has the biggest child population of 380 million in the world; plus the largest number of children who are forced to earn a living. We have many laws that ban child labour in hazardous industries. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the employment of children below the age of 14 in hazardous occupations has been strictly banned. But each state has different rules regarding the minimum age of employment. This makes the implementation of these laws difficult. Also, there is no ban on child labour in non-hazardous occupations. The act applies to the organised or factory sector and not the unorganized or informal sector where most children find employment as cleaners, servants, porters, waiters, among other forms of unskilled work. Thus, child labour continues because the implementation of the existing law is lax. There are industries, which have a special demand for child labour because of their nimble fingers, high level of concentration and capacity to work hard at abysmally low wages. The carpet industry in U.P. and Kashmir employs most children to make hand-knotted carpets.

There are 80,000 child workers in Jammu & Kashmir alone. Industries like gem cutting and polishing, pottery and glass want to remain competitive by employing children. The truth is that it is poverty which is pushing children into the brutish labour market. We have 260 million people below the poverty line in India, a large number of them are women. Poor and especially woman-headed families have no option but to push their little ones in this hard life in hostile conditions, with no human or labour rights.

Passage



There is a lobby which argues that there is nothing wrong with children working as long as the environment for work is conducive to learning new skills but studies have shown that the children are made to do boring, repetitive and tedious jobs and are not taught new skills as they grow older.

Children working in hazardous industries are prone to debilitating diseases which can cripple them for life. By sitting in cramped, damp and unhygienic spaces, their limbs become deformed for life. Inside matchstick, fireworks and glass industries they are victims of bronchial diseases and T.B. Their mental and physical development is permanently impaired by long hours of work. Once trapped, they can't get out of this vicious circle of poverty. They remain uneducated and powerless. Finally, in later years, they too are compelled to send their own children to work. Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare.

1. "Child labour perpetuates its own nightmare". What do you understand by this statement?

- A. Child labour is a nightmare which haunts children for life.
B. Child labour continues endlessly for those who are caught in its web.
C. Child labourers are deformed for life.
D. Child labourers perform boring and tedious jobs

2. Select the word which means 'to put an end to'.

- A. compel B. eradicate
C. cripple D. Impair

3. Which industry in UP and Kashmir employs most children?

- A. gem cutting B. Pottery
C. carpet making D. Glass

4. What is the approximate number of people below the poverty line?

- A. 260 million B. 380 million
C. 60 million D. 100 million

5. According to the Child Labour Act, 1986

- A. children under 14 are banned from working in non-hazardous industries
B. all children are prohibited from working in industries
C. children under 14 are prohibited from working in hazardous industries
D. children are banned from working in any unorganized sector

160. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Over the last few days, Delhi residents have been protesting against the government's approval for felling over 14,000 trees in south Delhi. Faced with severe criticism, the National Buildings Construction Corporation, tasked with redeveloping half a dozen south Delhi colonies, on Monday assured the Delhi High Court that no trees would be cut for the project till July 4, which is temporary relief. Many of the trees proposed to be felled are mature, local, fruit-bearing ones that provide clean air, shade and water recharge to humans and are homes to many birds. These areas of Delhi have served as the "lungs" of the city. However, the project reports overlook these qualities. Large constructions have been difficult to manage in India. The sector has systematically lobbied to be excluded from the environmental norms of the country and has been successful in carving out special privileges for itself in the environment clearance process. From 2006, most construction projects have been approved based on an application form instead of detailed assessment reports. In 2014, schools, colleges and hostels for educational institutions were exempted from taking environment clearances as long as they followed specific sustainability parameters. In 2016, projects with areas of less than 20,000 sq m were permitted to proceed as long as they submitted a self-declaration ensuring adherence to environmental norms. As a result of these privileges, construction projects contribute significantly to urban air and noise pollution and high water consumption in cities. Compensatory afforestation taken up in lieu of trees felled by projects is a failure due to poor survival

Passage



rates of saplings and no monitoring. Yet all regulatory bodies treat large constructions with kid gloves. The Minister for Urban Development has stated that this public campaign is "misinformed". But that is far from the truth. In a literate, urban society that has high access to the Internet, the lack of official information on urban development and its impacts can only be understood as an indirect form of public silencing. There are no public hearings held for urban construction projects, and governments assume that citizens have nothing to say about them. Since Delhi is ruled by so many agencies, you can run from pillar to post and still not have a clue about who is in charge of what. The residents are now appealing to the government to embrace inclusive ways of redesigning the city. The governments could join hands by committing to review these projects.

1. Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the claim that compensatory afforestation has been a failure?

- I. Saplings planted have a poor survival rate.
II. There is inadequate monitoring of the afforestation done.
III. The funds provided are adequate to cover the areas as well as look after them.

- A. Only III B. Only I and III
C. Only I and II D. Only II and III

2. Which of the following statements, if true, strengthen the claim that the large construction sector has managed to get itself special privileges when it comes to environmental norms of the country?

- I. The projects were designed by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and approved by the Union Cabinet in 2017.
II. The projects have been declared "smart" and "green" despite their ecological impacts such as high water usage and tree loss.
III. About 5 projects have been given environment clearances after they were cleared by the National Green Tribunal.

- A. Only I B. Only II
C. Only I and III D. Only II and III

3. What is meant by the phrase- 'indirect form of public silencing'?

- I. Lack of open access to the internet.
II. Lack of official information on development related issues.
III. Actively misinforming the public with blatant lies and false reports.

- A. Only I B. Only I and III C. Only II D. Only II and III

4. What qualities are being discussed in the line- 'However, the project reports overlook these qualities'?

- A. The enthusiasm of people to save their environment.
B. The laidback approach of the Judiciary.
C. The destruction and noise pollution accompanying the projects.
D. The importance of trees in the environment and for people.

5. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

- I. The project mentioned has been postponed indefinitely after public protests.
II. From 2006, most construction projects have been approved based on an application form instead of detailed assessment reports.
III. Multiple agencies in charge can create a lot of confusion.
A. Only II B. Only I and II C. Only III D. Only II and III

Passage



Answer

PASSAGE 1

1.3 2.2 3.3 4.4

PASSAGE 2

1.2 2.2 3.4 4.2

PASSAGE 3

1.4 2.1 3.4 4.1

PASSAGE 4.

1.4 2.1 3.4 4.2

PASSAGE 5.

1.A 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.A

PASSAGE 6.

1.A 2.B 3.A 4.A 5.D

Passage 7.

1.D 2.A 3.B 4.B 5.D

PASSAGE 8.

1.1 2.2 3.4 4.4

PASSAGE 9.

1.1 2.1 3.4 4.1

PASSAGE 10.

1.1 2.4 3.4 4.2

PASSAGE 11.

1.2 2.1 3.3 4.2

PASSAGE 12.

1.1 2.4 3.2 4.4

Passage 13

1.2 2.1 3.2 4.2 5.4

Passage 14.

1.2 2.4 3.4 4.3 5.2

Passage 15

1.B 2.B 3.C 4.D 5.B

Passage 16

1.D 2.B 3.B 4.A 5.D

PASSAGE 17

1.2 2.1 3.4 4.1

PASSAGE 18.

1.1 2.3 3.2 4.3

PASSAGE 19.

1.3 2.4 3.3 4.4

Passage 20.

1. A 2. A 3. C 4. A 5. A

PASSAGE 21.

1.1 2.4 3.1 4.4

Passage 22.

1.2 2.2 3.2 4.3 5.1

PASSAGE 23.

1.1 2.4 3.3 4.2

Passage 24.

1.C 2.C 3.B 4.D 5.D

Passage 25.

1.4 2.3 3.3 4.1 5.4

Passage 26.

1.3 2.1 3.1 4.3 5.1

Passage 27.

1.1 2.1 3.1 4.2 5.4

Passage 28.

1. 1 2. 1 3. 3 4. 2 5. 4

Passage 29.

1. 3 2. 3 3. 1 4. 2 5. 1

Passage 30.

1. 1 2. 1 3. 3 4. 2 5. 2

6. 3 7. 4 8. 3 9. 3 10. 2

Passage 31.

1.2 2.2 3.2 4.4 5.4

Passage 32.

1.3 2.4 3.4 4.2 5.3

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Passage 33.

1.1 2.1 3.4 4.3 5.4

Passage 34.

1.1 2.3 3.3 4.2 5.3

6.2 7.3 8.3 9.4 10.4

Passage 35.

1.4 2.2 3.4 4.1 5.2

Passage 36:

1.2 2.2 3.3 4.1 5.2

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Passage 37.

1.4 2.1 3.3 4.4 5.1

Passage 38.

1.4 2.3 3.3 4.1 5.4

Passage



Passage 39.

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6.3 7.2 8.1 9.2 10.3

Passage 40.

1.4 2.1 3.1 4.4 5.4
6.2 7.4 8.4 9.2 10.4

Passage 41.

1.4 2.1 3.1 4.3 5.1

Passage 42.

1.3 2.1 3.1 4.4 5.1
6.3 7.3 8.3 9.1 10.4

Passage 43

1.2 2.2 3.1 4.1 5.1
6.2 7.1 8.1 9.2 10.4

Passage 44.

1.2 2.1 3.4 4.4 5.2

Passage 45.

1.3 2.2 3.2 4.2 5.2

Passage 46.

1.2 2.4 3.4 4.3 5.2

Passage 47.

1.2 2.3 3.2 4.4 5.2

Passage 48.

1.1 2.3 3.1 4.2 5.1
6.4 7.4 8.2 9.3 10.3

Passage 49.

1. D 2. C 3. A 4. A

Passage 50.

1.2 2.2 3.3 4.2 5.1
6.1 7.3 8.3 9.4 10.1

Passage 51.

1.1 2.3 3.1 4.3 5.1
6.4 7.4 8.4 9.2 10.1

Passage 52.

1.4 2.2 3.1 4.1 5.4

Passage 53.

1.2 2.2 3.3 4.1 5.4
6.2 7.4 8.3 9.2 10.1

Passage 54.

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Passage 55.

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Passage 56.

1.2 2.4 3.3 4.1 5.3

Passage 57.

1.3 2.2 3.1 4.2 5.1

Passage 58.

1.2 2.4 3.1 4.2 5.4

Passage 59.

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Passage 60.

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Passage 61.

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Passage 62

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Passage 63.

1.2 2.4 3.1 4.4 5.2

Passage 64.

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Passage 65.

1.1 2.2 3.2 4.4 5.4

Passage 66.

1.3 2.1 3.3 4.3 5.3

Passage 67.

1.4 2.2 3.2 4.4 5.1

Passage 68.

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Passage 69.

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Passage 70.

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Passage 71.

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Passage 72.

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Passage 73.

1.4 2.3 3.2 4.2 5.1

Passage 74.

1.3 2.1 3.4 4.3 5.4

Passage 75.

1.2 2.3 3.1 4.1 5.1

Passage



Passage 76.

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Passage 77.

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Passage 78

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Passage 79.

1.2 2.2 3.4 4.3 5.1

Passage 80.

1.4 2.2 3.2 4.3 5.2

Passage 81.

1.3 2.2 3.1 4.4 5.3

Passage 82.

1.4 2.1 3.1 4.3 5.4

Passage 83

1.3 2.4 3.1 4.4 5.4

Passage 84.

1.3 2.2 3.1 4.4 5.3

Passage 85.

1.1 2.3 3.2 4.3 5.4

Passage 86.

1.4 2.3 3.3 4.3 5.4

Passage 87.

1.2 2.4 3.1 4.2 5.2

Passage 88.

1.4 2.1 3.2 4.4 5.4

Passage 89.

1.4 2.1 3.1 4.1 5.4

Passage 90.

1.3 2.2 3.3 4.4 5.1

Passage 91.

1.2 2.4 3.1 4.4 5.2

Passage 92.

1.4 2.3 3.4 4.3 5.3

Passage 93.

1.1 2.3 3.1 4.4 5.2

Passage 94

1.1 2.3 3.3 4.1 5.4

Passage 95.

1.2 2.2 3.3 4.2 5.3

Passage 96.

1.3 2.2 3.3 4.2 5.2

Passage 97.

1.3 2.4 3.2 4.2 5.4

Passage 98.

1.1 2.1 3.3 4.2 5.2

Passage 99.

1.4 2.4 3.3 4.4 5.2

Passage 100.

1.3 2.1 3.4 4.4 5.1

Passage 101.

1.3 2.2 3.1 4.4 5.1

Passage 102.

1.1 2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3

Passage 103.

1.1 2.4 3.2 4.3 5.4

Passage 104.

1.1 2.1 3.1 4.2 5.2

Passage 105.

1.A 2.B 3.B 4.B 5.B

Passage 106.

1.C 2.A 3.C 4.C 5.D

Passage 107.

1.C 2.D 3.C 4.D 5.D

Passage 108.

1.C 2.C 3.B 4.B 5.D

Passage 109.

1.B 2.C 3.C 4.B 5.D

Passage 110.

1.D 2.C 3.A 4.B 5.B

Passage 111.

1.C 2.B 3.A 4.D 5.C

Passage 112.

1.D 2.D 3.C 4.C 5.D

Passage 113.

1.A 2.D 3.B 4.D 5.D

Passage 114.

1.A 2.B 3.B 4.A 5.C

Passage 115.

1.D 2.A 3.C 4.B 5.A

Passage 116.

1.A 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.A

Passage 117.

1.A 2.D 3.A 4.A 5.B

Passage



Passage 118.

1.C 2.D 3.D 4.A 5.B

Passage 119.

1.D 2.A 3.D 4.A 5.D

Passage 120.

1.B 2.D 3.D 4.C 5.D

Passage 121.

1.D 2.A 3.B 4.C 5.C

Passage 122.

1.C 2.D 3.B 4.B 5.A

Passage 123.

1.A 2.C 3.C 4.B 5.C

PASSAGE 124.

1.3 2.1 3.1 4.1

PASSAGE 125.

1.4 2.3 3.3 4.4

PASSAGE 126.

1.4 2.3 3.2 4.3

PASSAGE 127.

1.1 2.1 3.1 4.3

PASSAGE 128.

1.3 2.1 3.4 4.1

PASSAGE 129.

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. D

PASSAGE 130.

1.D 2.D 3.D 4.D 5.A

PASSAGE 131.

1.A 2.D 3.A 4.D 5.D

PASSAGE 132.

1.C 2.D 3.D 4.C 5.D

PASSAGE 133.

1.C 2.C 3.D 4.A 5.C

PASSAGE 134.

1.D 2.D 3.B 4.A 5.A

PASSAGE 135.

1.C 2.D 3.A 4.B 5.D

PASSAGE 136.

1.A 2.C 3.D 4.D 5.B

PASSAGE 137.

1.A 2.B 3.D 4.B 5.D

PASSAGE 138.

1.A 2.C 3.A 4.A 5.B

PASSAGE 139.

1.B 2.C 3.B 4.A 5.D

PASSAGE 140.

1.D 2.D 3.D 4.D 5.A

PASSAGE 141.

1.D 2.B 3.A 4.D 5.C

PASSAGE 142.

1.A 2.C 3.D 4.C 5.C

PASSAGE 143.

1.C 2.D 3.B 4.D 5.D

PASSAGE 144.

1.D 2.C 3.D 4.B 5.A

PASSAGE 145.

1.B 2.C 3.D 4.B 5.D

PASSAGE 146.

1.D 2.C 3.A 4.D 5.A

PASSAGE 147.

1.D 2.C 3.A 4.C 5.B

PASSAGE 148.

1.D 2.A 3.D 4.C 5.B

PASSAGE 149.

1.B 2.D 3.C 4.B 5.B

PASSAGE 150.

1.A 2.B 3.B 4.D 5.D

PASSAGE 151.

1.B 2.A 3.D 4.B 5.D

PASSAGE 152.

1.A 2.B 3.C 4.C 5.A

PASSAGE 153.

1.A 2.D 3.B 4.D 5.B

PASSAGE 154.

1.B 2.D 3.C 4.D 5.D

PASSAGE 155.

1.C 2.C 3.B 4.B 5.A

PASSAGE 156.

1.D 2.C 3.D 4.B 5.B

PASSAGE 157.

1.D 2.D 3.A 4.A 5.D

PASSAGE 158.

1.C 2.D 3.B 4.A 5.A

PASSAGE 159.

1.B 2.B 3.C 4.A 5.C

Passage 160.

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. D