

SURYA LAW ACADEMY – SESSION 2026-27
SLA CLAT UG PATTERN MOCK TEST 25

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Total Questions: 120 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)
- Total Duration: 2 Hours (120 Minutes)
- Marking Scheme:
 - +1 mark for each correct answer
 - -0.25 marks for each wrong answer
 - 0 marks for un-attempted questions

PART 1: ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Q1-Q24)

PASSAGE 1 (Q1-Q6)

Topic: *A child lost at the fair*

The fair had come to the village with the first warm week of spring, and the boy walked between his parents with a hand in each of theirs, tugged first one way and then another by everything he saw. Reed pipes shrilled somewhere ahead, a swing chair overhead traced great circles against the sky, and every few steps some fresh colour or smell asked to be looked at.

Outside a shop hung with paper toys he stopped and pointed, but his father only walked faster and his mother told him such things were not for boys who cried for them, and he let go of wanting it as easily as he had wanted it, because a sweet-seller's stall was already ahead, its trays stacked with syrup-bright coils of jalebi, and beyond that a garland-seller's basket heaped with marigold and jasmine, and beyond that, at last, the roundabout itself, its wooden horses rising and falling, its riders shrieking with a happiness that looked, from the ground, like the finest thing in the world.

He turned to ask for a ride on it and found that the hands he had been holding only a moment before were no longer there. He turned again, and again, certain that his parents must be just behind him, hidden by some stranger's shoulder, and when three turns produced no father and no mother he began to run, calling out first in an ordinary voice and then in a wail, pushing between legs and baskets and cycle-rickshaws, the fair closing in around him like a crowd of strangers' faces with no face he knew among them.

A man crouched down and lifted him up, asking gently what the matter was, and when the boy could only sob out that he had lost his mother and father, the man carried him past the very stalls that had drawn him minutes before, offering to buy him a toy, then a sweet, then a garland, then a ride on the swing. The boy shook his head at each in turn, no longer wanting any of it, wanting only the two hands he had let go of without noticing, and he went on crying, I want my mother, I want my father, long after the man had run out of things to offer him.

Source: *Original narrative adapted from the situation of "The Lost Child" by Mulk Raj Anand (The Lost Child and Other Stories, 1934)*

QUESTIONS

Q1. In the passage, the reed pipes are described as having "shrilled" somewhere ahead. "Shrilled" most nearly means

- (A) echoed softly
- (B) played a cheerful little tune
- (C) sounded sharp and piercing
- (D) blared without stopping

Q2. The line describing the fair "closing in around him like a crowd of strangers' faces" uses which device?

- (A) metaphor, calling the fair a crowd outright
- (B) hyperbole, exaggerating how many people were near him
- (C) personification, giving the fairground human awareness
- (D) simile, comparing the fair to strangers' faces

Q3. Which best describes the order of the boy's reactions after he first turns and finds his parents gone?

- (A) immediate wailing, then a calm search
- (B) certainty they are near, then a rising cry
- (C) frozen silence until a stranger appears
- (D) growing anger at being tugged along the fair all day long

Q4. Why does the boy refuse everything the stranger offers him?

- (A) he does not trust the stranger enough to accept his help
- (B) he is too frightened to notice the offers
- (C) nothing offered can replace his parents
- (D) he has already had enough sweets that day

Q5. Which statement about the stranger's offers is true, based on the passage?

- (A) each offer matches an attraction from the boy's earlier walk
- (B) the boy cries only once the offers stop
- (C) the parents are found waiting by the roundabout
- (D) the paper toys were the last stall before he was lost

Q6. The fair "closing in around him like a crowd of strangers' faces" mainly conveys, though the passage never says so directly

- (A) the physical danger posed by the rickshaws and baskets pressing past him
- (B) guilt at letting go of his parents' hands
- (C) how much larger the fair is than his village
- (D) the panic of being surrounded yet knowing no one

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PASSAGE 2 (Q7-Q12)

Topic: *Dr Heidegger's strange elixir*

Dr Heidegger was a very old physician with a taste for the curious, and one evening he invited four even older friends to his book-lined study: a merchant ruined by bad speculation, a colonel who had wrecked his health and his fortune chasing pleasure, a politician disgraced out of public life, and a widow who had once been the city's greatest beauty and had lived for decades since in a seclusion nobody quite dared ask about.

On the wall of his study hung a portrait of a young woman who had been engaged to marry him fifty-five years before and who had died, the night before the wedding, after swallowing one of his own prescribed remedies.

From a drawer the doctor produced a rose, flattened and blackened with fifty-five years of pressing between the pages of a book, and dropped it into a glass vase of clear water he told his guests he had sent for all the way from a spring in Florida, the very spring, he said, that early explorers had once gone looking for and called the Fountain of Youth. As the four watched, the shrivelled rose stirred in the water, filled out, and stood up fresh and red as the morning it was picked.

Dr Heidegger poured four glasses of the water and set them before his guests, remarking that he had no wish to be young again himself, but that they, if restored, might use the wisdom age had cost them to live differently the second time. His guests laughed at the advice and drank at once, and before his eyes their wrinkles smoothed away, grey hair darkened, and stooped backs straightened, until the four of great age had become, for a few borrowed minutes, exactly the reckless young people they had once been.

Their old vanities returned faster than any new wisdom did: the colonel sang a drinking song, the merchant hummed over imaginary profits, and all three men crowded around the widow demanding a dance, until in the scuffle over her hand the vase was knocked to the floor and shattered. With the water gone, the four aged back within moments into the same grey, broken figures who had walked in an hour before.

Dr Heidegger, whose own glass had stood untouched throughout, looked down at the rose, wilted again on the table, and said only that he had learned enough not to drink from the Fountain of Youth even if it rose at his own doorstep. His four guests, having just watched the whole folly repeat itself on their own bodies, agreed before the night was out that they would travel to Florida and drink their fill at the spring.

Source: *Original narrative adapted from the situation of "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Twice-Told Tales, 1837)*

QUESTIONS

Q7. Which of the following is true of Dr Heidegger's four guests, based on the passage?

- (A) each had once had something that misfortune later took away
- (B) all four had personally known the woman in the portrait
- (C) Dr Heidegger had treated each for what ruined them
- (D) the widow alone had never known public prominence

Q8. "Before the night was out," used of the guests' resolve, most nearly means

- (A) before that same night ended
- (B) before nightfall began
- (C) before they had rested
- (D) before the next night was over

Q9. The guests' resolve to seek the fountain again, right after their relapse, is best described as

- (A) foreshadowing of an outcome predicted earlier
- (B) hyperbole about how fast they forgot
- (C) metonymy, the fountain standing for youth
- (D) irony, the lesson producing its opposite

Q10. Why does the vase of restorative water end up shattered?

- (A) Dr Heidegger breaks it once his point is proven
- (B) the recklessness the water restored turned into a scuffle
- (C) the widow knocks it over escaping their attention
- (D) the colonel breaks it while dancing alone in celebration

Q11. The tone of the passage's final two paragraphs is best described as

- (A) elegiac, mourning a loss beyond recovery
- (B) wry, quietly amused at unlearned lessons
- (C) persuasive, urging readers to avoid vanity
- (D) clinical, detailing ageing without judgment

Q12. Based on his final remark, Dr Heidegger would most likely agree that

- (A) youth is worth reclaiming at any cost
- (B) his guests proved wiser than he expected
- (C) the spring's water does not really work
- (D) restored youth without wisdom repeats old mistakes

PASSAGE 3 (Q13-Q18)

Topic: *The Andoque and the river dolphins*

I first went to live among the Andoque, an Indigenous people of the Colombian Amazon settled along the Caquetá river, in 2018, and it was not long before I noticed that nobody around me would eat the meat of a river dolphin, though the Andoque are skilled hunters and fishers who eat almost everything else the forest and the water provide.

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The reason, I learned, is that a dolphin is not considered an animal at all but a person, with wishes and fears and customs of its own, descended, in the stories the Andoque tell, from a brother and sister whose incest condemned them to be cast into the river long ago. A dolphin can leave the water and walk about in the shape of an unusually handsome stranger, and it is this shape-shifting that makes the creature dangerous rather than merely disliked: to be seduced by one, the Andoque say, is to be drawn slowly toward fever, madness and death.

The more time I spent with this belief, the more I came to see it as something other than superstition about wildlife. In Andoque cosmology, the point where the river eventually reaches the world of outsiders is symbolically tied to the arrival of foreign traders long ago, and the dolphin's seduction reads less as a warning about an animal than as a warning about the pull of everything unfamiliar and desirable that has historically come from beyond the forest. To give in to a dolphin's charm is, in this sense, a way of talking about the risk of giving in to the goods, comforts and habits of the wider world, and losing something of oneself in the process.

Other scholars of Amazonian thought, among them Candace Slater and Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, have described similar patterns elsewhere in the basin, where the boundary between person and animal is far less fixed than it is in the societies most of us come from. What has stayed with me longest, though, is not the anthropological argument but the discomfort of recognising, back in a world built on the promise that desire should simply be indulged, how much the Andoque's caution about seduction has to say about my own life, and how easily any of us can mistake the pull of something attractive for a pull worth following all the way down.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from:*
<https://aeon.co/essays/why-the-andoque-of-the-amazon-fear-the-seductive-dolphin>

QUESTIONS

Q13. Why, per the passage, will the Andoque not eat river dolphin meat?

- (A) the dolphin is treated as kin, not as game
- (B) eating it is believed to cause fever and madness
- (C) traders once forbade the practice, and it persisted
- (D) too few dolphins live near their settlement to hunt

Q14. "Fixed," in "the boundary between person and animal is far less fixed," most nearly means

- (A) noticed
- (B) recorded
- (C) firmly settled
- (D) morally justified

Q15. Which idea, though never named as such, best captures how the author reads the dolphin myth by the essay's close?

- (A) a folk explanation for unusual animal behaviour
- (B) a warning about risk beyond one's own world
- (C) a historical record of early foreign contact
- (D) a moral rule specifically about incest

Q16. Which of the following is true, based on the passage?

- (A) the Andoque treat every forest animal as a person
- (B) Slater and Viveiros de Castro dispute the author's account
- (C) similar person-animal beliefs occur elsewhere in Amazonia
- (D) the author lived among the Andoque for under a year

Q17. Based on the final paragraph, the author would most likely agree that

- (A) the caution applies chiefly within the Andoque's own world
- (B) the anthropological argument matters more than the personal recognition
- (C) a caution against shallow attraction reaches beyond the Andoque
- (D) modern life offers fewer such temptations than the forest

Q18. The tone of the final paragraph, turning from the Andoque's belief to the author's own life, is best described as

- (A) clinical, listing evidence without personal comment
- (B) reflective, turning observation into self-recognition
- (C) persuasive, actively demanding that readers change their behaviour
- (D) skeptical, doubting the belief has any basis

PASSAGE 4 (Q19-Q24)

Topic: *A letter sealed for 4,000 years*

Nearly four thousand years ago, Assyrian merchants trading between the city of Assur and the Anatolian outpost of Kanesh sealed their private letters inside a second layer of clay, an envelope stamped with the sender's own seal, so that only the intended reader could break it open. For as long as archaeologists have been digging up these envelopes, reading the letter inside has meant destroying the envelope itself, so that any tablet found still sealed has simply stayed unread.

A new scanner may change that. Named ENCI, for Extracting Non-destructively Cuneiform Inscriptions, it is a mobile X-ray CT scanner built by a team led by the Assyriologist Cécile Michel together with the X-ray physicist Christian Schroer and the computer scientist Stephan Olbrich, and designed to be light enough to travel: it weighs around 420 kilograms whole but breaks down into eight separate pieces for transport to a museum.

The team first tested the scanner at the Louvre in Paris in February 2024, then carried it to the Museum of Anatolian

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Civilisations in Ankara later that year, where over a three-week campaign it produced sixty-four scans of forty-eight tablets and other clay objects, reading their hidden cuneiform without cracking a single envelope open.

Among the letters it recovered was one written by a woman named Anna-anna to her husband Ennum-Assur, a merchant away on business, in which she describes chasing down a debt owed to him and the debtor's refusal to hand the silver to anyone but her husband, once he came home. The scans also picked up details no eye could see from outside: seeds and other small inclusions baked into the clay, and traces of exactly how each tablet and its envelope had been shaped by hand. The team published its findings in the journal npj Heritage Science in 2026.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from:*
<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/news/2026-05-26-enci.html>

QUESTIONS

Q19. Which of the following is stated about how these Assyrian letters were sealed?

- (A) a wax layer covered each letter before it was sent out
- (B) a clay layer bore the sender's mark and enclosed it
- (C) only letters concerning business were sealed this way, others were not
- (D) the recipient's own mark sealed the letter shut, not the sender's

Q20. Why could a sealed letter not be read in the past without destroying it?

- (A) the stamped clay envelope itself was the barrier to break through
- (B) the clay had grown too hard over the centuries
- (C) museum policy required every tablet to stay sealed
- (D) the script could only be read once the tablet was moistened

Q21. Which of the following best captures the central point of the passage?

- (A) a non-destructive scanner now reads letters once readable only by destroying them
- (B) Assyrian merchants at Kanesh wrote letters never meant to survive
- (C) Cécile Michel is the foremost living authority on Assyrian trade
- (D) the Ankara museum holds more unread tablets than any other

Q22. Ennum-Assur is described as a merchant "away on business." This most nearly means

- (A) retired from working life
- (B) travelling without any clear purpose
- (C) absent due to illness
- (D) travelling elsewhere for work

Q23. What does Anna-anna's letter mainly illustrate about the scanner's usefulness?

- (A) it can date a tablet to a specific year
- (B) it works only on letters written by women
- (C) ordinary personal letters, not just official ones, are now recoverable
- (D) it can identify an individual scribe's handwriting

Q24. Which of the following is stated about the scans made in Ankara?

- (A) they were the scanner's first use on any tablet
- (B) they took place at the Louvre over three weeks
- (C) they recovered fewer scans than tablets examined
- (D) they revealed seeds baked into the clay, invisible from outside

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PART 2: CURRENT AFFAIRS & GK (Q25-Q52)

PASSAGE 1 (Q25-Q29)

Topic: Sports — *A Football Club's Back-to-Back Continental Crown, and Its Governing Body's Renamed, Relocated History*

Europe's most prestigious club football competition produced its latest champion this early summer, in a final staged at a national stadium in a Central European capital. The fixture pitted the previous season's title-holders, a wealthy club backed for over a decade by a Gulf investment vehicle, against a storied English club chasing the one major continental honour that has eluded it for its entire history.

The challengers struck first, a swift move finished with a composed touch inside the opening minutes to put them ahead at half-time. The holders drew level from the penalty spot in the second half, and neither side found a winner across the rest of normal time or extra time, sending the contest to a shootout. There the tension told: after a miss apiece mid-sequence, the challengers' final taker blazed his effort over the bar, handing the trophy to the defending champions for a second successive year.

The result extended an already remarkable run: barely a year earlier the same club had lifted this trophy for the first time, winning by the heaviest margin in a final in close to seventy years, having abandoned years of assembling star-studded, expensively bought squads for a younger, home-grown core under a manager already garlanded with continental success elsewhere. Retaining the title made the winners only the second side in the competition's modern era to triumph in successive seasons, matching a feat last managed by a Spanish club roughly a decade earlier, and the first club from their own country to do so. For the runners-up, it was a second heartbreak in a second final, a generation after their only previous attempt ended in defeat.

Behind the trophy stands a governing body with its own long institutional story, formed in the mid-twentieth century when national football associations from across the continent met in a Swiss city to establish it. Its head office then moved twice — from a Western European capital to the Swiss capital — before settling, a generation later, in a small town on a Swiss lakeshore, where it remains today.

The flagship competition has been remade more than once. It began as a straight knockout for each country's reigning league champion only; it was renamed and restructured in the early 1990s to add a round-robin phase, and opened later that decade to more than one club per country, and only two seasons ago was overhauled again, replacing the old mini-groups with a single, larger table in which every side plays a broader, coefficient-seeded spread of opponents before the leaders reach the knockouts. The body's president, in office for the better part

of a decade, has overseen this latest change, arguing it rewards form over the old certainties of a fixed group.

Source: *Deccan Herald* | Published: 30 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q25. The governing body that organises this competition was founded in 1954 at a meeting of national football associations held in which Swiss city?

- (A) Zurich
- (B) Basel
- (C) Bern
- (D) Nyon

Q26. Who is the president of the governing body that has overseen this competition's latest overhaul?

- (A) Aleksander Ceferin
- (B) Gianni Infantino
- (C) Michel Platini
- (D) Sepp Blatter

Q27. Since 2011, the club that won this year's final has been owned by an investment vehicle linked to which country?

- (A) Saudi Arabia
- (B) Qatar
- (C) United Arab Emirates
- (D) Bahrain

Q28. The winning manager lifted this trophy for a third time this year. With which two clubs, across all three titles, has he won it?

- (A) Real Madrid and Barcelona
- (B) Barcelona and Bayern Munich
- (C) Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain
- (D) Barcelona and Chelsea

Q29. How many national football associations founded the competition's governing body in 1954?

- (A) 23 founding associations
- (B) 31 founding associations
- (C) 40 founding associations
- (D) 55 founding associations

PASSAGE 2 (Q30-Q34)

Topic: International Relations — *A Global Illicit-Finance Watchdog Elects Its First Indian Deputy*

A standing international body that writes and polices global rules against dirty money marked two milestones this past quarter: a routine review of which countries need closer watching, and the election of an Indian official to one of its senior posts for the first time. Set up at the close of the 1980s by a club of the world's largest industrial economies meeting in Western Europe to fight drug-money laundering, its mandate later widened to cover extremist financing, and again to cover

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weapons-proliferation financing. It passes no laws and runs no police force; instead it writes standards that its several dozen member states, and a wider network of regional partners spanning most of the world's jurisdictions, are expected to adopt at home, checking periodically how faithfully each has done so.

Its clearest, most closely watched output is a pair of running lists, updated at gatherings held several times a year. One, considerably longer, names jurisdictions whose safeguards show real gaps but which have signed up to a timetabled programme of fixes and stay under closer watch while they carry it out; the other, much shorter, is reserved for jurisdictions whose failings are judged severe enough to invite a coordinated response from the wider membership. A country moves onto the first list once a technical review flags weaknesses, and comes off only after an on-site visit confirms reforms have taken hold.

At its latest review, held over three days at its own headquarters, the body moved a large, resource-rich West Asian country and a Balkan state onto the closer-watch list, while confirming two African states had done enough to be taken off it after their own reforms were checked on the ground. The gathering also completed a scheduled change of leadership at the top, the chair passing from a Latin American finance-crime specialist to a counterpart from one of the body's founding Western European members, whose stated priorities ahead include tackling scam-driven fraud and closer information-sharing between banks, regulators and enforcement agencies across borders.

Alongside that handover, the body filled its own second-in-command post for the year ahead, a position that rotates among the membership and carries a shorter tenure than the chair's own term. It went to a serving Indian civil servant heading a central government department, an officer with a long career in public administration who had earlier run India's own anti-money-laundering intelligence agency and led the country's delegation through its last full review by this same body. It is the first time since India joined, more than fifteen years ago, that an Indian has held this post, and India's external-affairs establishment called the election recognition of the country's growing role against terror financing and illicit money flows.

Source: *Business Standard* | *Published: 19 June 2026*

QUESTIONS

Q30. The body described in the passage was originally set up by a club of the world's largest industrial economies. Which forum was that?

- (A) G20
- (B) G7
- (C) OECD
- (D) BRICS

Q31. At its latest review, the watchdog moved a Balkan state and a resource-rich West Asian country onto its closer-watch list. Which West Asian country was added?

- (A) Iran
- (B) Kuwait
- (C) Iraq
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Q32. The watchdog's secretariat, where this latest review was held, is based in which city?

- (A) Paris
- (B) Vienna
- (C) Geneva
- (D) Brussels

Q33. Which of the following is NOT true of the officer newly elected as the watchdog's deputy for the year ahead?

- (A) A 1994-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre
- (B) Formerly headed India's Financial Intelligence Unit
- (C) Led India's delegation during its last mutual evaluation
- (D) Currently serves as Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Q34. India became a member of this watchdog in which year?

- (A) Joined in 2008
- (B) Joined in 2009
- (C) Joined in 2010
- (D) Joined in 2011

PASSAGE 3 (Q35-Q39)

Topic: *Economy — A Formula-Driven Surplus Transfer Sets a New Record*

Once every year, after its accounts for the financial year are closed, the country's central bank hands over a share of its earnings to the government as a dividend, a transfer that has, in most recent years, run into the trillions of rupees and now counts among the single largest sources of non-tax revenue in the Union's budget. The size of that transfer is not decided freely each year; it follows a formula-based framework adopted after an earlier expert committee examined how much of the bank's own balance sheet needed to be held back as a cushion against unexpected losses, and how much could safely be paid out.

That framework requires the central bank's board to keep a contingency buffer within a specified band, expressed as a share of the balance sheet, before releasing the remainder as surplus. Adopted at the end of the last decade, the framework had never been revisited until a review completed only last year, which widened the permissible band for the first time since the rules were first written, giving the board more room to judge each year's risks for itself rather than being pinned to a narrow range. This year, meeting soon after the close of the financial year, the

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board chose to set the buffer at a level in the upper half of that widened band and cleared the release of the rest as surplus.

The resulting transfer was the largest the central bank has ever paid to the government in a single year, comfortably ahead of the previous year's record, driven by large realised gains on its sales of foreign exchange and a sharp rise in its interest income and a fast-expanding balance sheet built up through its market operations over the year. For the government, the payout arrives at a convenient point in the budget cycle: because it is booked as non-tax revenue, a larger-than-expected transfer gives the exchequer room to meet its fiscal-deficit target, fund additional spending, or reduce market borrowing, without any change to tax policy at all.

The episode is also a reminder of how a technical, formula-driven decision inside a monetary authority can move the government's own arithmetic more than many tax announcements do, and of why the framework's periodic review, rather than any single year's headline number, is what economists watch most closely.

Source: *The Wire* | Published: 22 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q35. Who is the Governor of the central bank described in the passage?

- (A) Shaktikanta Das
- (B) Urjit Patel
- (C) Raghuram Rajan
- (D) Sanjay Malhotra

Q36. Which expert committee's recommendations underlie the formula-based framework used to decide this transfer?

- (A) Y.V. Reddy Committee
- (B) Y.H. Malegam Committee
- (C) Bimal Jalan Committee
- (D) Urjit Patel Committee

Q37. What is the official name of the framework that sets the band within which the central bank must hold its risk buffer?

- (A) Capital Adequacy Framework
- (B) Contingency Reserve Framework
- (C) Economic Capital Framework
- (D) Statutory Liquidity Framework

Q38. Consider the following statements about the framework described in the passage: 1. The expert committee whose recommendations underlie it was headed by Y.H. Malegam. 2. The review that widened its risk-buffer band was completed in 2025. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q39. The central bank described in the passage commenced operations in which year?

- (A) 1926
- (B) 1935
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1969

PASSAGE 4 (Q40-Q44)

Topic: *Science & Technology — An Indigenous Rail-Safety System Extends Its Reach*

Most of the safety built into a railway network still depends, in the final instant, on one person noticing a red signal and acting on it in time. On a system that runs high-speed passenger expresses and heavy freight trains over shared tracks at ever-rising speeds, that single point of failure carries real stakes: a missed signal, a moment of fatigue, a driver who reacts a few seconds too late, and two trains that should never have shared the same stretch of track end up doing exactly that.

India has spent much of the last decade building a homegrown answer to this problem rather than buying one of the handful of comparable systems sold by European and East Asian manufacturers. Small transponders fixed to the sleepers at regular intervals along the track constantly tell any passing train exactly where it is; a computer on board cross-checks that position against the signal ahead and the speed the train is cleared to run at. If a driver fails to slow down in time, or runs past a signal that should have stopped the train, the system does not wait to be told — it takes over the brakes itself. The same layer of protection also stops two trains from being allowed too close together on one line, and keeps working when fog or heavy rain would otherwise force trains to a crawl.

The system carries the strictest internationally recognised safety grade given to this class of technology, a standard that effectively requires it to fail dangerously less often than almost anything else on the network. It also draws part of its location data from the country's own satellite-navigation system as well as the foreign one, a detail engineers point to as evidence that India's various indigenous infrastructure programmes are increasingly reinforcing one another rather than developing in isolation.

Coverage is still a work in progress. One of the system's original equipment suppliers recently won a large fresh order to fit the onboard half of the system onto new locomotives built at a major state-run works, part of a still-unfinished, multi-year push to equip the busiest freight and passenger corridors before extending coverage nationwide. Only a small number of countries operate a fully indigenous system of this kind rather than an imported one, and officials have cast the expanding rollout as both a safety imperative, after past accidents exposed the cost of relying on human vigilance alone, and a marker of

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self-reliance in a technology that most of the world still buys rather than builds.

Source: *Business Standard* | Published: 29 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q40. Which organisation developed the indigenous train-protection system described in the passage?

- (A) Research Design and Standards Organisation
- (B) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation
- (C) Centre for Railway Information Systems
- (D) Integral Coach Factory

Q41. In which year was the system described in the passage adopted as India's national Automatic Train Protection standard?

- (A) Adopted in 2016
- (B) Adopted in 2018
- (C) Adopted in 2022
- (D) Adopted in 2020

Q42. Alongside GPS, the system also draws part of its location data from which Indian satellite system?

- (A) Bhuvan
- (B) Cartosat
- (C) GAGAN
- (D) NavIC

Q43. Which of the following is NOT true of the indigenous train-protection system described in the passage?

- (A) It can apply a train's brakes automatically
- (B) It operates under the Ministry of Railways
- (C) It was developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation
- (D) It has been assigned Safety Integrity Level 4 certification

Q44. Which original equipment supplier recently won a large fresh order from Chittaranjan Locomotive Works to fit the system onto new locomotives?

- (A) HBL Engineering
- (B) Medha Servo Drives
- (C) Kernex Microsystems
- (D) Siemens India

PASSAGE 5 (Q45-Q48)

Topic: *Freedom Movement — A Tribal Uprising Against Debt, Land Loss and Colonial Rule*

Long before the more famous uprising of 1857, a community of cultivators in the hill country of eastern India rose in open revolt against the colonial order that had settled over their land in the preceding decades. The community had been drawn into the plains economy through a chain of new obligations it had never faced before: land revenue demanded in cash rather than kind,

moneylenders offering loans at ruinous rates to meet that demand, and a colonial and zamindari administration that consistently sided with the lender when a borrower's land was seized for default. Petitions and appeals to local officials against these practices went unanswered for years.

One summer, a full two years before that better-known revolt broke out, two brothers from a small village declared that the community would no longer submit to outside rule. According to the account that spread through the villages, they had received a divine visitation instructing them to expel the moneylenders, landlords and colonial officials from their territory and to govern themselves. Within weeks, tens of thousands had gathered in response, and the movement, joined by four siblings from the same family in different roles of leadership, spread rapidly across several districts, drawing in poor non-tribal cultivators as well.

The uprising's early phase saw real successes against local revenue collectors and moneylenders, but the colonial government responded with a prolonged military campaign, eventually declaring martial law across the affected region for close to two months. By the time the fighting ended, the toll ran into the thousands, the original leaders had been captured or killed, and the movement was crushed. Yet its aftermath produced lasting administrative change: the colonial government carved out a separate, specially administered district for the community, insulated for a time from the ordinary revenue and judicial machinery that had provoked the revolt, and decades later strengthened this with a law specifically barring the transfer of tribal land to non-tribal owners.

The community's home state now marks the anniversary of that summer declaration as an official, gazetted holiday each year, with tributes paid at the national level and commemorative programmes held at museums and universities far beyond the region itself, treating the revolt not as a local footnote but as one of the earliest organised mass rebellions against colonial rule anywhere in the subcontinent.

Source: *ANI* | Published: 30 June 2026

QUESTIONS

Q45. Which community's 1855-56 uprising against colonial rule is described in the passage?

- (A) Bhils
- (B) Santhals
- (C) Mundas
- (D) Gonds

Q46. The two brothers who led the uprising declared their revolt at a village in which present-day district?

- (A) Ranchi
- (B) Dumka

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- (C) Godda
(D) Sahibganj

Q47. Who was Governor-General of India when the uprising described in the passage broke out in 1855?

- (A) Lord Dalhousie
(B) Lord Canning
(C) Lord William Bentinck
(D) Lord Cornwallis

Q48. What is the name of the annual commemoration of this uprising, observed on 30 June?

- (A) Shaheed Diwas
(B) Adivasi Diwas
(C) Kranti Diwas
(D) Hul Diwas

PASSAGE 6 (Q49-Q52)

Topic: Arts & Culture — *A Bronze-Age Cemetery Reopens an Ancestry Debate*

Among the handful of Bronze Age societies that built cities on a large scale, one flourished across a river basin in the northwestern part of the subcontinent some four to five thousand years ago, then vanished so completely that even its own name for itself is unknown to us; historians instead call it after the first site where its ruins were identified, a century ago, in what is now Pakistan. Its cities shared an unmistakable signature: streets laid out on a grid, sophisticated drainage running beneath them, uniform weights and measures used across settlements hundreds of kilometres apart, and a short, still-undeciphered script stamped onto trade seals that have turned up as far away as Mesopotamia. Why the civilisation declined, whether through the drying up of a river system it depended on or a combination of climatic and economic pressures, remains debated.

The single largest settlement of this civilisation yet discovered lies not at either of the two sites where the civilisation was first identified, but well to the east, in a state of present-day India, where a mound complex has been under excavation on and off for over a decade. A cemetery uncovered within one of its mounds has proved especially significant: a skeleton recovered from it several years ago, once its ancient DNA was sequenced, showed no genetic trace of the pastoralist populations of Central Asia later blamed in some accounts for a great migration into the subcontinent, a finding that reopened a long-running scholarly argument about the ancestry of present-day South Asians and their languages.

This year, further excavation at the same cemetery uncovered several more burials, and the human remains have now been formally handed over, under a fresh inter-agency agreement, from the archaeological body that excavated them to a sister scientific institution better equipped for laboratory analysis of

ancient bone and DNA, working alongside university researchers in India and abroad. The transfer is expected to yield fresh evidence on the diet, health, ancestry and social organisation of the people who lived in one of the world's earliest cities, adding new data to a debate about Indian prehistory that a single skeleton from the same ground had already reshaped once before.

Source: *The Hindu* | Published: 23 June 2026

QUESTIONS

Q49. The site described in the passage, where the cemetery lies, is located in which state?

- (A) Punjab
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Haryana

Q50. Which two sites, both now in Pakistan, are the two sites at which this Bronze Age civilisation was first identified?

- (A) Harappa and Mohenjo-daro
(B) Mohenjo-daro and Lothal
(C) Harappa and Dholavira
(D) Mohenjo-daro and Kalibangan

Q51. Mesopotamian records of the third millennium BCE are widely thought to refer to this civilisation by which name?

- (A) Dilmun
(B) Magan
(C) Meluhha
(D) Elam

Q52. Under the fresh inter-agency agreement announced in 2026, the human remains were handed over from the excavating agency to which sister institution?

- (A) Anthropological Survey of India
(B) Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences
(C) Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute
(D) Geological Survey of India

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PART 3: LEGAL REASONING (Q53-Q82)

PASSAGE 1 (Q53-Q57)

Topic: *Consent, Bodily Autonomy, and Compelled Self-Incrimination in Criminal Investigation*

Criminal investigation depends on drawing the truth out of a suspect's own knowledge, and the State has a real interest in techniques that promise to do this reliably. Indian constitutional law nonetheless treats a person's mind, and her bodily and mental integrity, as territory the State may not enter without her free consent, however useful the intrusion might be. The line drawn is not between guilty and innocent suspects, nor between reliable and unreliable techniques, but between what a person is compelled to reveal from her consciousness and what her body merely furnishes as an object.

The guarantee against self-incrimination protects a person from being compelled to be a witness against herself, and this is not confined to the courtroom: it applies equally during police interrogation and investigation, before any accusation becomes a trial. It extends beyond spoken or written statements to any technique that involuntarily draws personal knowledge from a person's mind — so narcoanalysis (a drug-induced interview under lowered inhibition), polygraph examination, and brain-electrical-activation-profiling (recording neural response to case-specific stimuli) are testimonial in character and cannot be administered on an accused, suspect, or witness without free and informed consent. Physical evidence that does not require the subject to communicate from her own consciousness — a blood sample, fingerprint, handwriting specimen, or a voice sample taken solely for identification — remains compellable and attracts no such protection, because furnishing it is not itself an act of testimony.

Consent to any of the three techniques is valid only if free of inducement, threat or coercion, and recorded before a Judicial Magistrate rather than merely before the police; the subject must first have had access to legal counsel and been informed of the test's physical, emotional and legal consequences. The test must then be administered by an independent agency, the subject's lawyer permitted to be present, and the entire process documented in full. Compelling the technique without this sequence violates both self-incrimination and personal liberty's protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, whether or not the results are ever used in evidence.

Even where consent and every safeguard are satisfied, nothing said under a test's influence is itself a confession; it carries no more weight than an ordinary statement to police, treated with caution given the techniques' contested reliability. What a valid, voluntary test can legitimately yield is a lead: where information given during it points to a new fact that investigators independently verify, that discovered fact — distinct from the statement leading to it — may still be proved.

Where the test itself was compelled, nothing traced to it, neither the statement nor any fact discovered because of it, can be used against the person from whom it was extracted.

Source: *Adapted from settled Indian constitutional doctrine on involuntary narcoanalysis, polygraph and brain-mapping tests in criminal investigation; grounded in Selvi v. State of Karnataka, (2010) 7 SCC 263*

QUESTIONS

Q53. According to the passage, what is the precise line Indian constitutional law draws in regulating narcoanalysis, polygraph and brain-electrical-activation-profiling tests?

- (A) Between techniques that are scientifically reliable and techniques whose results cannot be trusted at trial.
- (B) Between suspects already formally accused of an offence and witnesses who have not yet been accused.
- (C) Between what a person is compelled to reveal and what her body merely furnishes.
- (D) Between persons ultimately found guilty at trial and persons whose innocence the investigation later establishes.

Q54. Rohan was summoned by investigators probing a kidnapping call. Without any drug or interrogation technique, he was asked to read out standard sentences so his recorded voice could be compared with the ransom call's voice sample; he objected that this compelled him to be a witness against himself. Is Rohan's objection valid?

- (A) Yes, because recording a suspect's voice without his free and informed consent is itself a testimonial act.
- (B) Yes, because comparing his voice to the ransom call draws knowledge from his mind just as narcoanalysis does.
- (C) No, but only if the recording is made by an independent agency with his lawyer present throughout.
- (D) No, because a voice sample taken for identification is physical evidence, not testimony from his own mind.

Q55. Ritika was arrested on suspicion of cyber fraud. Investigators explained narcoanalysis to her and she signed a consent form at the police station itself, without meeting a Magistrate or a lawyer; the department's own forensic unit ran the test that same afternoon. Under its influence Ritika described where a hard disk was hidden, and independent verification located it containing incriminating records. Can the prosecution use the taped statement and the hard disk's contents against her?

- (A) No, neither, because a statement made under narcoanalysis is barred even where every safeguard in the sequence was observed.
- (B) No, neither, because consent given only to police, without a Magistrate or agency, was not the free, informed consent required here.

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- (C) Yes, to both, because Ritika's signed consent at the police station already satisfies what the sequence requires.
(D) Yes, but only the hard disk, since an independently verified fact is always provable whatever the test's validity.

Q56. Farhan agreed to a polygraph test after every safeguard was observed: he had access to a lawyer, his consent was recorded before a Judicial Magistrate, and an independent agency administered the test with his lawyer present throughout. During the test he stated that he had lied to police about his location on the night of the offence. The prosecution seeks to prove this statement, standing alone, as a confession of guilt. Should the court allow this?

- (A) No, because even a fully compliant, voluntary test does not turn what is said into a confession by itself.
(B) Yes, because once every safeguard is satisfied, anything said during the test becomes admissible as a confession.
(C) No, because the safeguards applied only to the polygraph, so nothing said during the test has evidentiary value here.
(D) Yes, because a statement made before an independent agency, once fully documented, automatically becomes a confession.

Q57. During an investigation into a corporate embezzlement, Meenal's counsel was present when her consent to a brain-electrical-activation-profiling test was recorded, but it was recorded before the investigating officer rather than a Judicial Magistrate, though an independent laboratory later conducted the test. During the test, Meenal's brain's response to case-specific stimuli suggested unfamiliarity with a particular offshore account; investigators, acting purely on a hunch unconnected to this response, separately traced the same account through banking records. Can the account, once traced, be used against her?

- (A) Yes, because the account was traced through an independent hunch, not because of the test, so the bar on derivative facts does not apply.
(B) No, because consent was recorded before the officer, not a Magistrate, so nothing from Meenal's investigation may now be used.
(C) Yes, because an independent laboratory conducted the test, and consent before any officer suffices so long as counsel was present.
(D) No, because the account is a fact discovered as a result of the compelled test, and only a voluntary test's fruits may be proved.

PASSAGE 2 (Q58-Q62)

Topic: Article 19 — The Six Freedoms and Their Restrictions

Article 19(1) of the Constitution guarantees six freedoms, not seven: clause (f), which once protected the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property, was omitted by the Forty-Fourth Amendment in 1978, and the remaining clauses were never renumbered, so the text still runs from (e) directly to (g). What survives is the freedom of speech and expression under 19(1)(a), the freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms under 19(1)(b), the freedom to form associations, unions or co-operative societies under 19(1)(c), the freedom to move freely throughout India under 19(1)(d), the freedom to reside and settle in any part of India under 19(1)(e), and the freedom to practise any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business under 19(1)(g).

None of these freedoms is absolute. Each is paired with its own restriction clause, and the pairing is not interchangeable: speech may be restrained only on the grounds listed in 19(2) — the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offence; assembly only on the grounds in 19(3); association only on the grounds in 19(4); movement and residence only on the grounds common to 19(5), which also permits restrictions protecting Scheduled Tribes; and profession, occupation, trade or business only on the grounds in 19(6), which additionally allows the State to prescribe qualifications and to carry on any trade or business itself, wholly or partly, to the exclusion of citizens.

A restriction survives scrutiny only if it clears a five-part test. It must be backed by a validly enacted law, not mere executive fiat; that law must pursue a legitimate aim falling within the specific grounds listed in the applicable clause; there must be a rational connection between the measure and that aim; the measure must be necessary, in the sense that no less restrictive alternative would serve the aim equally well; and, finally, the burden the measure places on the right must not be disproportionate to the benefit it secures. A restriction that is total rather than calibrated, that continues beyond the period the stated aim requires, or that is not backed by any published, reviewable order fails this test regardless of how compelling the underlying justification sounds, because the reviewing court cannot weigh reasonableness against a restriction whose existence, scope and duration are not placed on record for it to examine.

Source: Adapted from settled constitutional doctrine on Article 19; grounded in *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India*, (2020) 3 SCC 637

QUESTIONS

Q58. Which of the following statements about Article 19 is NOT true as per the passage?

- (A) The freedom to acquire, hold and dispose of property was removed from Article 19(1) by a 1978 amendment.

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(B) Restrictions on the freedom of movement and residence may be justified on any ground listed in Article 19(2).

(C) A restriction backed by a validly enacted law can still fail if a less restrictive alternative existed.

(D) The clauses of Article 19(1) still run from clause (e) to clause (g) since the remaining clauses were never renumbered.

Q59. The State of Nirmalya's home department, without enacting any law or issuing any published order, orally directed internet providers to suspend mobile data across a district indefinitely after a law-and-order incident, citing public order. A trader named Ilyas, unable to access his business's online orders, challenges the suspension. Is the suspension valid?

(A) No, because public order is not among the grounds on which trade restrictions may ever be imposed.

(B) Yes, because an oral departmental direction citing public order is itself a sufficiently legitimate aim here.

(C) No, because a restriction not backed by any published, reviewable order fails regardless of its justification.

(D) Yes, because indefinite suspensions are permissible so long as the department can later explain its reasoning.

Q60. The State of Nirmalya enacted a law dissolving a lawful trade union of factory workers, citing only that the union's public statements were, in the government's view, defamatory of certain company officials. The union challenges the dissolution. Is the government's ground valid?

(A) No, because associations may be restricted only on Article 19(4) grounds, and defamation is a 19(2) ground for speech, not association.

(B) Yes, because any ground available under Article 19(2) to restrict speech may equally restrict any other freedom.

(C) No, because trade unions are wholly exempt from every restriction Article 19(4) otherwise permits on associations.

(D) Yes, because dissolving a union is proportionate so long as the government's characterisation is made in good faith.

Q61. Citing public order, a ground listed in Article 19(2), the State of Nirmalya enacted a law completely banning all citizens from posting any health-related content online during a public health emergency, rather than requiring such content to carry a government fact-check label, an alternative the government's own committee had earlier recommended as adequate. A challenge is filed. Is the ban valid?

(A) Yes, because the law was validly enacted and pursues the legitimate aim of curbing misinformation in an emergency.

(B) No, because misinformation during a public health emergency is not a ground listed under Article 19(2).

(C) Yes, because a rational connection exists between banning health posts and curbing medical misinformation online.

(D) No, because a less restrictive fact-check alternative existed, so the ban fails the necessity limb's least-restrictive-alternative test.

Q62. The State of Nirmalya passed a law barring non-tribal persons from settling and residing in a Scheduled Tribe area, citing the need to protect the tribal community's interests, without citing any of the specific grounds listed in Article 19(2). Hemant, a non-tribal person refused permission to settle there, challenges the restriction as unconstitutional for failing to cite a 19(2) ground. Is Hemant's objection valid?

(A) Yes, because every restriction on any of the six freedoms must be justified by a ground listed in Article 19(2).

(B) No, because protecting a Scheduled Tribe's interests is itself one of the specific grounds listed within Article 19(2).

(C) Yes, because restrictions on movement and residence must always be tested only against the grounds in Article 19(2).

(D) No, because movement and residence restrictions are tested under Article 19(5), which separately permits protecting Scheduled Tribes.

PASSAGE 3 (Q63-Q66)

Topic: FIR Registration — *The Statutory Ladder Before a Writ*

E & G Global Estates Ltd, acting through its director, told the Deputy Superintendent of the Land Records office at Trimbakeshwar, in complaints dated 13 June and 9 July 2025, that certain persons had forged documents and impersonated the company's director while filing a property-measurement application. The Land Records authority declined to take coercive action and told the company to approach the competent authority instead. Rather than pursue that route, the company went straight to the Bombay High Court under Article 226, seeking a direction that the police register an FIR. The High Court, without issuing notice to the accused, directed the police to record the director's statement and take appropriate action; the police registered an FIR on 23 December 2025 under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The accused appealed to the Supreme Court, which set aside the High Court's order and quashed the FIR.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 lays down a sequential ladder for getting a cognizable offence investigated, and a complainant must climb it step by step rather than vault straight to a writ court. Information disclosing a cognizable offence must first be placed before the officer in charge of the police station under section 173(1), who is obliged to record it; for an offence punishable with imprisonment of three years or

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more but less than seven, the officer may instead, with the prior permission of an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, conduct a preliminary inquiry under section 173(3) to ascertain whether a prima facie case exists, ordinarily completing it within fourteen days. If the police refuse or neglect to register an FIR, the complainant's remedy is to move the Superintendent of Police under section 173(4); if that too fails, the complainant may approach a Magistrate, who may order an investigation under section 175(3). Only after this statutory ladder has been exhausted does a writ petition under Article 226 ordinarily become available for directing FIR registration; the sequence may be bypassed before then only where the case discloses an imminent threat to life or personal liberty that the ordinary steps cannot address in time. A High Court that bypasses the ladder and issues a first-instance direction, without notice to the persons who will be accused, substitutes its own assessment of the complaint's merit for the graduated screening the statute deliberately builds in, and an FIR registered on the strength of such a direction does not survive.

Source: *LiveLaw* | Published: 4 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q63. Chandan alleged in a complaint to the local police station that his business partner had committed fraud in a joint venture. When the police did not register an FIR, Chandan, without approaching the Superintendent of Police or a Magistrate, filed a writ petition asking the High Court to direct FIR registration, and the High Court, without hearing the partner, issued the direction immediately. Does the FIR registered on this direction survive?

- (A) Yes, because a writ petition is available to any complainant at any stage once the police refuse to register an FIR.
- (B) No, because Chandan bypassed the ladder to the SP and Magistrate without an imminent threat, and the Court gave no notice.
- (C) Yes, because commercial fraud between business partners is serious enough to justify skipping the statutory remedies entirely.
- (D) No, but only because the Court failed to issue notice, and the ladder itself need not have been exhausted first.

Q64. A complaint disclosing an offence punishable with five years' imprisonment was filed at a police station. With the prior permission of an officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, the station conducted a preliminary inquiry that continued for eleven weeks before the police concluded no prima facie case existed and closed the matter without registering an FIR. The complainant argues the closure is invalid because the inquiry ran far beyond what the law contemplates. Is the complainant correct?

(A) No, because a preliminary inquiry under section 173(3) has no outer time limit once DSP permission is obtained.

(B) Yes, because an offence punishable with five years does not qualify for a preliminary inquiry under section 173(3).

(C) No, because the fourteen-day period applies only to offences at the lower end of the three-to-seven-year band.

(D) Yes, because the offence qualifies for inquiry, but eleven weeks departs sharply from the fourteen-day period contemplated.

Q65. Sudha received repeated, specific threats naming the date and place her estranged husband intended to kill her; the local police station refused to register an FIR despite three visits within the same week. With no time to climb the statutory ladder before the threatened date arrived, Sudha moved the High Court under Article 226, which, after hearing both sides, directed immediate registration of an FIR. Is the High Court's direction sustainable?

(A) No, because the ladder to the Superintendent of Police and Magistrate must be exhausted before any writ petition, whatever the underlying facts.

(B) No, because the Court's direction is sustainable only when issued without first hearing the persons who would be accused.

(C) Yes, because the threat to Sudha's life was imminent enough that ordinary steps could not address it, the recognised bypass route.

(D) Yes, because three visits to the police station within a week is, by itself, sufficient exhaustion of the ladder.

Q66. A complaint disclosing a cognizable offence was lodged at a police station, which neither registered an FIR nor conducted any preliminary inquiry, and remained silent for four months. Without approaching the Superintendent of Police or a Magistrate, and without facing any threat to life or personal liberty, the complainant filed a writ petition under Article 226. This time the High Court issued notice to the person who would be accused, heard her fully, and only then directed the police to register an FIR. The accused challenges the FIR. Does giving her notice and a hearing cure the defect and let the FIR survive?

(A) Yes, because the objection to a first-instance direction is specifically the missing notice, and a full hearing removes that objection entirely.

(B) No, because a writ petition becomes available only once the ladder is exhausted, and neither step nor any threat was shown here.

(C) Yes, because four months of police silence on a cognizable offence is, by itself, enough neglect to justify bypassing the ladder.

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(D) No, but only because the Court should have sent the complainant to the Magistrate, though approaching the Court directly was otherwise proper.

PASSAGE 4 (Q67-Q70)

Topic: *Contract Law (Bailment and Pledge — ICA ss. 148-181)*

The Indian Contract Act, 1872 defines bailment, under section 148, as the delivery of goods by one person to another for a purpose, upon a contract that they be returned or otherwise disposed of according to the deliverer's directions once that purpose is accomplished; the deliverer is the bailor, the recipient the bailee. Section 151 fixes the bailee's duty of care at what a person of ordinary prudence would, under similar circumstances, take of his own goods of the same bulk, quality and value, and section 152 excuses him from liability for loss, destruction or deterioration, absent a special contract, once that standard is met. Section 160 obliges him to return the goods, without demand, as soon as the bailment's time expires or its purpose is accomplished.

A finder of lost goods holds a narrower position: section 168 denies him any right to sue the owner for the expense of preserving the goods or locating him, though he may retain them until compensated and sue for any reward the owner has specifically offered. Section 169 lets him sell goods that are commonly the subject of sale, where the owner cannot with reasonable diligence be found or refuses on demand to pay the finder's lawful charges, if they are in danger of perishing or of losing the greater part of their value, or if those charges reach two-thirds of their value. Where a bailee has exercised labour or skill on goods consistently with the bailment's purpose, section 170 gives him, absent a contrary contract, a particular lien to retain them until paid; section 171 confines the broader general lien to bankers, factors, wharfingers, attorneys of a High Court and policy-brokers alone.

A pledge, under section 172, is a bailment of goods as security for a debt or a promise; the bailor becomes the pawnor, the bailee the pawnee. Section 173 lets the pawnee retain the goods not only for the debt but for interest on it and necessary expenses of possession or preservation. On the pawnor's default, section 176 gives the pawnee a choice: sue on the debt while retaining the goods as collateral, or sell them after reasonable notice, recovering any deficiency from the pawnor and returning any surplus to him — a right that, the Supreme Court held in *Lallan Prasad v. Rahmat Ali*, presupposes the pawnee remains able to redeliver the goods against payment.

Two provisions validate a pledge by a non-owner. Section 178 protects a pawnee taking a pledge, in the ordinary course of business, from a mercantile agent in possession with the owner's consent, provided the pawnee acts in good faith without notice that the agent lacks authority. Section 178A extends the same protection where the pawnor holds the goods under a contract

voidable under section 19 or section 19A but not yet rescinded when the pledge is made.

Source: *Adapted from the Indian Contract Act, 1872, Sections 148-181*

QUESTIONS

Q67. Vikas left his car with Naina, a friend, for safekeeping while he travelled abroad for a month. Naina parked it in her locked garage, exactly as she parked her own car of similar value, and checked on it periodically. Despite this, the car was damaged when a storm caused a tree to fall on the garage roof. Vikas sues Naina for the damage. Will he succeed?

- (A) Yes, because a bailee is strictly liable for any loss or damage to goods bailed to her, regardless of care taken.
- (B) No, but only if Naina can also prove she owns a car of equal or greater value than Vikas's.
- (C) No, because Naina took the same care an ordinarily prudent person takes of similar goods, which is all section 151 requires.
- (D) Yes, because Naina's duty only ends once she returns the car as section 160 requires, with no earlier excuse available.

Q68. Deepa found an expensive wristwatch lying in a park and made reasonable efforts to trace the owner through local notices, without success. She spent money on the notices and on safely storing the watch for several weeks. No reward had been offered for the watch's return. Can Deepa recover the money she spent on the notices and safekeeping from the owner if he is later found?

- (A) Yes, because a finder is entitled to sue the owner for every reasonable expense of preserving and searching for him.
- (B) No, because section 168 denies a finder any right to sue for the expense of preserving the goods or locating him.
- (C) Yes, because Deepa's diligent efforts to trace the owner entitle her to reimbursement as a matter of fairness.
- (D) No, but only because no reward was offered, and a finder may recover expenses whenever a reward has in fact been offered.

Q69. A watch-repairer fixed a customer's watch and, under an ordinary contract with no special term about a lien, wishes to retain the watch not only until paid for this repair but also until the customer separately settles an unrelated, older bill for a different item the customer once left with him. Can he retain the watch on this broader basis?

- (A) Yes, because every bailee who exercises labour or skill on goods automatically acquires a general lien for any debt owed.
- (B) No, because a particular lien under section 170 cannot be exercised unless the contract expressly provides for it.

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(C) Yes, because section 171 extends the general lien to any bailee, such as a repairer, who has improved goods in his possession.

(D) No, because section 170 gives only a particular lien for this repair, and section 171 confines the general lien to a different, named class.

Q70. Ganesh pledged his gold jewellery with Om as security for a loan. When Ganesh defaulted, Om sued him for the debt while continuing to hold the jewellery as collateral, but had, before filing suit, already pledged the same jewellery onward to a third party to raise funds for himself, so that he could no longer redeliver it against payment. Ganesh argues Om's suit for the debt cannot succeed on these facts. Is Ganesh correct?

(A) Yes, because a pawnee's right to sue while retaining goods as collateral presupposes he remains able to redeliver them against payment.

(B) No, because section 176 gives a pawnee an unqualified right to sue regardless of what he has since done with the goods.

(C) Yes, but only because Om additionally failed to give reasonable notice before pledging the jewellery onward to a third party.

(D) No, because once a pawnee elects to sue on the debt, he may deal with the pledged goods however he wishes meanwhile.

PASSAGE 5 (Q71-Q74)

Topic: Motor Accident Compensation — the Multiplier Method in a Fatal Accident Claim (Sarla Verma / Pranay Sethi Matrix)

Sushant Prabhakaran was riding a motorcycle near Brijghat Bridge on the evening of 10 April 2011, with Priyanka Das riding pillion, when a heavy goods vehicle struck them; the truck ran over Prabhakaran and killed him instantly, while Das suffered grievous injuries. His parents and Das, who described herself as his intended wife, sought compensation before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal for his death. The Tribunal found no documentary proof that a marriage had taken place — the record described Das only as his fiancée — and so treated him, for compensation purposes, as unmarried. Applying the multiplier fixed for a person of his age, thirty-three, it awarded a little over eighty-two lakh rupees, most of it to his mother. The Punjab and Haryana High Court, on appeal, left the multiplier and marital finding undisturbed, adjusting only Das's own share. Before the Supreme Court, the insurer argued that the multiplier should track the surviving parents' age rather than the deceased's, since it was their dependency, not his working life, that was being compensated.

The Court rejected that argument and restated the settled method for converting a fatal accident into a sum of money. Once a tribunal has fixed the deceased's annual income, it must, first, add a fixed percentage for future prospects: fifty per cent

of income if the deceased held a permanent or salaried post and was under forty at death, thirty per cent between forty and fifty, fifteen per cent between fifty and sixty; or forty, twenty-five and ten per cent respectively at the same ages if the deceased was self-employed or on a fixed income. It must, second, deduct a fixed percentage for the deceased's own personal and living expenses: one-third where the deceased was married and left two or three dependants, one-fourth for four to six, one-fifth for more, or fifty per cent where the deceased was unmarried. It must, third, multiply the resulting annual dependency by a multiplier drawn from a single standardised table keyed only to the deceased's own age at death: eighteen for fifteen to twenty-five, falling by one for every five years to thirteen at forty-six to fifty, then by two for every five years beyond that. The multiplier values the working life the deceased himself lost, not the remaining life expectancy of whoever survives to claim it, so neither insurer nor claimant may argue for a different multiplier merely because the dependants are older or younger than the deceased was. Affirming the multiplier of sixteen used for Prabhakaran's age bracket, and the finding that he died unmarried, the Court dismissed the challenges to the death-compensation award.

Source: *Verdictum* | Published: 5 September 2026

QUESTIONS

Q71. Harpreet, a salaried employee, died at thirty-eight in a road accident, survived by his parents who were both above sixty at the time. The insurer argues that since the parents, not Harpreet, are the ones being compensated for lost dependency, the multiplier should be drawn from the parents' age bracket rather than Harpreet's. Should the Tribunal accept this argument?

(A) Yes, because the multiplier compensates dependants for lost support, so it must logically track their own age and life expectancy.

(B) Yes, because Harpreet's parents, as the actual claimants, stand in his shoes for every purpose relevant to the multiplier.

(C) No, because parents above sixty are not permitted to claim any dependency compensation under the passage's method.

(D) No, because the multiplier is drawn from a single table keyed only to the deceased's own age at death.

Q72. Farooq, self-employed and thirty-two years old, died leaving behind his parents and three younger siblings, all financially dependent on him; he had never married. In computing compensation, which combination of adjustments does the passage's method require the Tribunal to apply to Farooq's annual income?

(A) Add fifty per cent for future prospects since he was under forty, and deduct one-fourth for four to six dependants.

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(B) Add thirty per cent for future prospects and deduct one-third for personal expenses, since he had five dependants.

(C) Add forty per cent since he was self-employed and under forty, and deduct fifty per cent since he was unmarried.

(D) Add forty per cent for future prospects and deduct one-fifth, since he left more than six dependants in total.

Q73. Two claims arise from unrelated accidents. Deceased X was forty-six years old at death; deceased Y was fifty-one. Both otherwise qualify for identical treatment under the passage's method. What multiplier values should the Tribunal apply to X and to Y respectively?

(A) Thirteen for X, since forty-six sits in the band bottoming out at thirteen, and eleven for Y, past the fifty mark.

(B) Thirteen for both X and Y, since the multiplier stays constant at thirteen for every age beyond forty-five.

(C) Fourteen for X, since forty-six is only one year past forty-five and has not yet fallen further, and twelve for Y.

(D) Thirteen for X and nine for Y, since the steeper two-point fall begins the moment a deceased crosses forty-six.

Q74. Two deceased persons held permanent, salaried posts, and each left behind a spouse and two dependent children, three dependants in all. Deceased P died at thirty-nine; deceased Q died at forty-five. What future-prospects percentage should the Tribunal add to each one's income, and what percentage should it deduct for personal and living expenses?

(A) Add fifty per cent to both incomes, since both held salaried posts, and deduct one-third from each for expenses.

(B) Add fifty per cent to P and thirty to Q for their age bands, deducting one-third from each for expenses.

(C) Add thirty per cent to both, since deceased persons under fifty are treated identically for future prospects.

(D) Add fifty per cent to P's income and thirty to Q's, but deduct one-fourth from each for three dependants.

PASSAGE 6 (Q75-Q78)

Topic: *Administrative Tribunals and the Basic Structure*

Article 323A, inserted by the Forty-Second Amendment in 1976, empowers Parliament to set up administrative tribunals by law for adjudicating disputes over recruitment and conditions of service of persons in public employment under the Union, a State, a local body, or a government-owned corporation. Parliament used that power to enact the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, establishing a Central Administrative Tribunal and, on a State's request, State Administrative Tribunals to try service matters that would otherwise go before the ordinary courts, and section 28 of that

Act originally went further, barring every other court, including the High Courts, from entertaining such disputes at all except by way of appeal to the Supreme Court under Article 136.

That exclusion could not survive scrutiny, because the power of judicial review vested in the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227 and in the Supreme Court under Article 32 is treated as part of the Constitution's basic structure, an essential feature that even a constitutional amendment cannot abolish. A tribunal created by ordinary legislation, however specialised its jurisdiction or however tribunal-like its procedure, cannot be substituted for that constitutionally entrenched jurisdiction; at most it can perform a role supplemental to it. The resolution is therefore not to strike down the tribunals but to re-position them: a tribunal remains competent, in the first instance, to decide the service dispute placed before it, including any incidental question about the validity of the statute or rule under which the dispute arises, but its decision does not have the last word. An aggrieved party's remedy against a tribunal's order lies not directly before the Supreme Court under Article 136, but before a Division Bench of the jurisdictional High Court under Articles 226 and 227, restoring the two-tier scrutiny — tribunal, then High Court — that a direct-to-Supreme-Court appeal route had collapsed into one.

Two further consequences follow from treating judicial review as untouchable rather than merely inconvenient. First, a tribunal exercising the power of judicial review over administrative action cannot be handed the power to rule on the constitutional validity of the primary legislation that created the very framework it administers; that determination remains for the High Courts and the Supreme Court alone. Second, litigants need not await a tribunal's decision before invoking a High Court's writ jurisdiction where the tribunal itself, or the vires of the statute constituting it, is what is under challenge; only disputes falling squarely within the tribunal's ordinary service-matter jurisdiction must first be taken to the tribunal.

Source: *Adapted from settled administrative law doctrine on the tribunal system; grounded in L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India, (1997) 3 SCC 261*

QUESTIONS

Q75. According to the passage, what happens to an aggrieved party's appeal from a decision of the Central Administrative Tribunal under the scheme the passage describes?

(A) It lies directly to the Supreme Court under Article 136, exactly as section 28 originally provided.

(B) It lies to a single judge of the jurisdictional High Court under Article 226 alone, with no further appeal.

(C) It lies before a Division Bench of the High Court under Articles 226 and 227, restoring two-tier scrutiny.

(D) It lies to whichever forum the aggrieved party itself elects at the time of filing the appeal.

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Q76. Assertion (A): The power of judicial review vested in the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227 cannot be excluded by a tribunal created through ordinary legislation under Article 323A. Reason (R): Judicial review by the High Courts and the Supreme Court is treated as part of the Constitution's basic structure, which even a constitutional amendment cannot abolish.

- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly and fully explains the assertion.
- (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason does not correctly explain the assertion.
- (C) The assertion is true, but the reason, considered on its own, is a false statement.
- (D) The assertion is a false statement, but the reason, considered on its own, is true.

Q77. Before the Central Administrative Tribunal, a dismissed civil servant challenged her dismissal, arguing that the departmental rule under which she was dismissed was inconsistent with the parent Act and therefore invalid. The Tribunal examined this argument as part of deciding her service dispute and held the rule inconsistent. The Union government argues the Tribunal had no power to examine the rule's validity at all. Is the government's objection correct?

- (A) No, because a tribunal may decide, within the dispute, whether the rule under which it arises is valid.
- (B) Yes, because no tribunal created by ordinary legislation may pronounce on the validity of any rule or statute.
- (C) No, because examining a subordinate rule's validity is the same as ruling on the parent Act's own constitutionality.
- (D) Yes, because the power to rule on a rule's consistency with its parent Act belongs exclusively to the High Courts.

Q78. A group of employees wishes to challenge, before the High Court, the constitution of a newly created State Administrative Tribunal itself, arguing that the State government lacked the power to set it up in the manner it did; a separate employee, unconnected to that challenge, wishes to contest an ordinary transfer order issued to him by his department. Must both approach the Tribunal before the High Court will entertain their petitions?

- (A) Yes, because every dispute touching public employment, whatever its subject, must first be placed before the Tribunal.
- (B) No, because once any litigant's matter is before the High Court, every other pending dispute is automatically exempted too.
- (C) No for the constitution challenge, since the tribunal's own vires is in issue; yes for the transfer dispute.
- (D) Yes for both, since a transfer order and a challenge to the Tribunal's constitution are treated identically here.

PASSAGE 7 (Q79-Q82)

Topic: *Company Law (Judicial Review of a Selective Reduction of Share Capital -- Companies Act 2013 s. 66, Minority Buy-Out and Valuation Fairness)*

Bharti Telecom Limited, a closely held company whose principal asset is its substantial shareholding in the listed Bharti Airtel Limited, resolved under section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 to selectively reduce its share capital by cancelling just over twenty-eight million equity shares held by a class of identified minority shareholders holding barely over one per cent of the company's total capital, initially offering a little over one hundred and sixty rupees for each ten-rupee share. The special resolution was carried by more than ninety-nine per cent of the company's total shareholders and by over three-quarters of the identified minority shareholders who voted; the Tribunal confirmed the reduction but revised the price upward by declining to deduct a notional dividend distribution tax from the valuation, and the appellate tribunal dismissed the shareholders' challenge. Eleven of the minority shareholders then appealed to the Supreme Court, contesting the valuation on the grounds that it had been carried out by an entity connected to the company's internal auditor without adequate disclosure, that a discount for the shares' lack of marketability had been wrongly applied to what was in substance a forced exit, and that the resulting price undervalued the shares when set against the company's own historical offers to shareholders in earlier years.

The Court held that a tribunal asked to confirm a reduction of share capital under section 66 performs a narrow, four-limbed inquiry, and nothing beyond it: whether the consideration offered is fair and reasonable on the material available; whether the resolution commanded the support of the requisite majority, with particular weight given to the votes of non-promoter shareholders; whether, read as a whole, the terms are so unreasonable that a fair-minded person acting reasonably would find them egregiously wrong; and whether the valuer's chosen methodology can be said to have gone demonstrably off track rather than merely to reflect a defensible professional judgment with which an objector happens to disagree. Because section 66, unlike sections 230, 232 and 236 -- which govern compromises and arrangements, amalgamations, and an acquirer's compulsory purchase of minority holdings respectively -- imposes no statutory requirement of a report from a registered valuer, the absence of one is not itself a defect, and a discount for lack of marketability is a legitimate adjustment, not a badge of unfairness, when the shares in question are those of an unlisted, untraded company. Absent proof crossing this threshold of egregious unfairness or demonstrable arbitrariness, a tribunal must not substitute its own commercial assessment for the valuer's, and a reduction otherwise regularly approved will stand even where individual dissenting shareholders consider the price inadequate.

Source: *Verdictum* | Published: 11 March 2026

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QUESTIONS

Q79. A company selectively reduced its share capital under section 66, cancelling the shares of a minority class after valuing them internally without obtaining any report from a registered valuer. The minority shareholders argue the reduction must fail for this reason alone, pointing to the practice under sections 230 and 232 governing compromises and arrangements. Is their argument correct?

- (A) Yes, because every reduction of share capital, whatever the section invoked, requires a registered valuer's report.
- (B) No, because section 66, unlike sections 230, 232 and 236, imposes no requirement of a registered valuer's report.
- (C) Yes, because a valuation without a registered valuer's report can never be shown fair on the material available.
- (D) No, but only if the dissenting minority held less than one per cent of the company's total capital.

Q80. In a selective reduction of an unlisted, untraded company's share capital, the valuer applied a discount for the shares' lack of marketability before arriving at the price offered to the minority. The minority shareholders argue that applying any marketability discount at all, in any selective reduction, is inherently unfair to a shareholder being forced out. Should the tribunal accept this blanket objection?

- (A) Yes, because a marketability discount always signals that the valuer's methodology has gone demonstrably off track.
- (B) No, because a marketability discount may be applied to any company's shares, listed or unlisted, in every valuation.
- (C) Yes, because forcing a shareholder to exit against her wishes makes any price adjustment inherently unfair.
- (D) No, because a marketability discount is a legitimate adjustment for an unlisted, untraded company's shares.

Q81. In a selective reduction confirmed by the requisite majority, a group of dissenting shareholders places before the tribunal an alternative valuation, prepared by their own expert, that arrives at a modestly higher price using a different but professionally accepted method. They ask the tribunal to substitute their expert's figure for the company's. Should the tribunal do so?

- (A) Yes, because a tribunal confirming a reduction under section 66 is free to adopt whichever of two competing, professionally accepted valuations it independently prefers.
- (B) No, because dissenting shareholders are never entitled to place any alternative valuation once the resolution has secured a majority.

(C) No, because the tribunal must not substitute its own assessment absent proof of egregious unfairness or demonstrable arbitrariness, absent here.

(D) Yes, because an objector's own expert evidence, prepared after the resolution, deserves to be preferred over the company's valuation.

Q82. A company's resolution to selectively reduce capital was approved by ninety-nine per cent of its total shareholders, but almost all of that support came from the promoter group; among the identified minority shareholders whose shares were being cancelled, barely fifty-five per cent voted in favour, a bare majority. A dissenting shareholder argues that the ninety-nine per cent overall figure cannot, by itself, satisfy the tribunal's inquiry into whether the resolution commanded the requisite majority. Is the dissenting shareholder correct?

- (A) No, because ninety-nine per cent support automatically satisfies every limb of the tribunal's inquiry, whatever the minority's own pattern.
- (B) Yes, because the majority limb requires weight to non-promoter votes, so a promoter-dominated headline figure does not, by itself, satisfy it.
- (C) No, because the tribunal's inquiry does not examine how shareholder support is distributed between promoter and non-promoter shareholders.
- (D) Yes, because bare fifty-five per cent minority approval falls below the requisite majority the statute fixes for any reduction.

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PART 4: LOGICAL REASONING (Q83-Q108)

AR PUZZLE 1 (Q83-Q88)

Topic: Letter transformation machine

The input word is TRIBUNAL. In Step I, the letters that were consonants in the input word are rearranged into strict alphabetical order among the positions those consonants originally occupied, and the letters that were vowels in the input word are rearranged into reverse alphabetical order among the positions those vowels originally occupied. In Step II, the output of Step I is swapped in adjacent pairs of positions: the first and second positions are swapped, then the third and fourth, then the fifth and sixth, then the seventh and eighth. In Step III, every letter produced by Step II is replaced by the letter that comes immediately after it in the English alphabet. In Step IV, the entire eight-letter sequence produced by Step III is reversed from left to right. No letter is ever dropped and no step is ever repeated.

Source: Original Constructed Logic Puzzle (No external source required)

Directions: A word-processing machine rearranges the eight letters of an input word over four fixed steps; each step is applied to the output of the step immediately before it. Study the rule below and answer the questions that follow.

QUESTIONS

Q83. In Step I of the transformation, what is the letter at the 3rd position from the left?

- (A) The third position of Step I holds the letter N.
- (B) The third position of Step I holds the letter U.
- (C) The third position of Step I holds the letter I.
- (D) The third position of Step I holds the letter L.

Q84. In Step I of the transformation, what is the letter at the 8th (last) position from the left?

- (A) The eighth position of Step I holds the letter A.
- (B) The eighth position of Step I holds the letter R.
- (C) The eighth position of Step I holds the letter L.
- (D) The eighth position of Step I holds the letter T.

Q85. In Step II of the transformation, what is the letter at the 4th position from the left?

- (A) The fourth position of Step II holds the letter N.
- (B) The fourth position of Step II holds the letter U.
- (C) The fourth position of Step II holds the letter R.
- (D) The fourth position of Step II holds the letter B.

Q86. In Step II of the transformation, how many of the eight positions hold a vowel?

- (A) Step II contains exactly one vowel among its eight letters.

(B) Step II contains exactly four vowels among its eight letters.

(C) Step II contains exactly two vowels among its eight letters.

(D) Step II contains exactly three vowels among its eight letters.

Q87. Which of the following statements about the transformation machine's rule is NOT correct?

- (A) In Step I, the vowels are rearranged in reverse alphabetical order among themselves.
- (B) In Step II, letters are swapped in adjacent pairs: positions 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8.
- (C) In Step III, every letter is replaced by the next letter of the alphabet.
- (D) In Step IV, the letters are rearranged in strict alphabetical order.

Q88. In Step IV of the transformation, what is the sum of the alphabetical positions (A = 1, B = 2, ... Z = 26) of the letters at the 2nd and 5th positions from the left?

- (A) The second and fifth positions of Step IV sum to 22.
- (B) The second and fifth positions of Step IV sum to 43.
- (C) The second and fifth positions of Step IV sum to 29.
- (D) The second and fifth positions of Step IV sum to 41.

AR PUZZLE 2 (Q89-Q95)

Topic: Crime and alibi deduction

A valuable painting went missing from Ashford House between 9:00 PM and 9:30 PM. Six house-guests -- Kabir, Leela, Manav, Nisha, Omkar and Priya -- were each alone in a different one of six rooms during that half hour: the Attic, the Basement, the Garage, the Kitchen, the Library and the Studio. When questioned, every guest named the room they claimed to have been in. A house investigation afterward established six facts about where each guest actually was, independent of what anyone had claimed.

The investigation established: (1) Manav was in the Attic. (2) Kabir was in none of the Basement, the Garage, the Kitchen or the Studio. (3) Omkar was in the Kitchen. (4) Priya was in the Basement. (5) Nisha was not in the Garage. (6) Leela was not in the Studio.

When questioned, the six guests had claimed: Kabir -- the Library; Leela -- the Basement; Manav -- the Attic; Nisha -- the Studio; Omkar -- the Kitchen; Priya -- the Basement. Exactly one guest's claim conflicts with where the investigation actually places them, and that guest is the thief.

Source: Original Constructed Logic Puzzle (No external source required)

QUESTIONS

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Q89. At the time of the theft, which room was Manav actually in?

- (A) Manav was in the Kitchen at the time of the theft.
- (B) Manav was in the Basement at the time of the theft.
- (C) Manav was in the Attic at the time of the theft.
- (D) Manav was in the Studio at the time of the theft.

Q90. At the time of the theft, which room was Omkar actually in?

- (A) Omkar was in the Kitchen at the time of the theft.
- (B) Omkar was in the Garage at the time of the theft.
- (C) Omkar was in the Library at the time of the theft.
- (D) Omkar was in the Basement at the time of the theft.

Q91. At the time of the theft, which room was Kabir actually in?

- (A) Kabir was in the Studio at the time of the theft.
- (B) Kabir was in the Garage at the time of the theft.
- (C) Kabir was in the Library at the time of the theft.
- (D) Kabir was in the Kitchen at the time of the theft.

Q92. At the time of the theft, which room was Nisha actually in?

- (A) Nisha was in the Garage at the time of the theft.
- (B) Nisha was in the Studio at the time of the theft.
- (C) Nisha was in the Basement at the time of the theft.
- (D) Nisha was in the Attic at the time of the theft.

Q93. Whose claimed location does not match where the investigation actually places them, making that guest the thief?

- (A) Leela's claimed room does not match her actual room.
- (B) Kabir's claimed room does not match his actual room.
- (C) Priya's claimed room does not match her actual room.
- (D) Omkar's claimed room does not match his actual room.

Q94. Which of the following statements about the six house-guests' claims is NOT correct?

- (A) Manav's stated location matches where the evidence places him.
- (B) Every one of the six house-guests' statements matches where the evidence places them.
- (C) Priya was in the Basement at the time of the theft.
- (D) Omkar was in the Kitchen at the time of the theft.

Q95. At the time of the theft, which room was Leela actually in?

- (A) Leela was in the Studio at the time of the theft.
- (B) Leela was in the Basement at the time of the theft.
- (C) Leela was in the Garage at the time of the theft.
- (D) Leela was in the Attic at the time of the theft.

AR PUZZLE 3 (Q96-Q101)

Topic: Symbolic blood relations

A @ B % C # D & E \$ F * G

Source: Original Constructed Logic Puzzle (No external source required)

Directions: In the statement below, capital letters represent seven different people and each symbol represents a family relation, coded as follows: '@' means 'is the father of'; '#' means 'is the mother of'; '%' means 'is the husband of'; '&' means 'is the wife of'; '\$' means 'is the son of'; '*' means 'is the daughter of'. Study the coded statement and answer the questions that follow.

QUESTIONS

Q96. In the coded statement, how is A related to B?

- (A) In the coded statement, A @ B means A is B's father.
- (B) In the coded statement, A @ B means A is B's mother.
- (C) In the coded statement, A @ B means A is B's son.
- (D) In the coded statement, A @ B means A is B's daughter.

Q97. In the coded statement, how is C related to D?

- (A) In the coded statement, C # D means C is D's father.
- (B) In the coded statement, C # D means C is D's mother.
- (C) In the coded statement, C # D means C is D's wife.
- (D) In the coded statement, C # D means C is D's husband.

Q98. How is D related to A?

- (A) D is related to A as A's granddaughter.
- (B) D is related to A as A's daughter.
- (C) D is related to A as A's niece.
- (D) D is related to A as A's daughter-in-law.

Q99. Which of the following statements about the family, based on the coded statement, is NOT correct?

- (A) B is the husband of C.
- (B) E is the son of F.
- (C) A is the father of D.
- (D) D is the wife of E.

Q100. How is F related to D?

- (A) F is related to D as D's mother-in-law.
- (B) F is related to D as D's mother.
- (C) F is related to D as D's sister-in-law.
- (D) F is related to D as D's grandmother.

Q101. Based on the coded statement, how many of the seven people can be determined with certainty to be female?

- (A) Exactly two of the seven people can be determined with certainty to be female.
- (B) Exactly five of the seven people can be determined with certainty to be female.

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- (C) Exactly four of the seven people can be determined with certainty to be female.
(D) Exactly three of the seven people can be determined with certainty to be female.

AR PUZZLE 4 (Q102-Q108)

Topic: Workshop scheduling puzzle

A city library is holding seven different workshops -- Coding, Yoga, Origami, Gardening, Photography, Baking and Pottery - one on each day of a single week, Monday through Sunday, with exactly one workshop per day.

The schedule satisfies all of the following: Origami is held on Wednesday. Coding is held exactly two days before Origami. Exactly one workshop is held between Yoga and Gardening. Photography is held immediately after Gardening. Baking is not held on Sunday. Pottery is held on the last day of the week. Yoga is held immediately after Coding.

Source: Original Constructed Logic Puzzle (No external source required)

QUESTIONS

Q102. On which day of the week is the Coding workshop held?

- (A) The Coding workshop is held on Monday.
(B) The Coding workshop is held on Tuesday.
(C) The Coding workshop is held on Wednesday.
(D) The Coding workshop is held on Thursday.

Q103. On which day of the week is the Gardening workshop held?

- (A) The Gardening workshop is held on Tuesday.
(B) The Gardening workshop is held on Wednesday.
(C) The Gardening workshop is held on Thursday.
(D) The Gardening workshop is held on Friday.

Q104. How many workshops are held strictly between the Yoga workshop and the Baking workshop?

- (A) Exactly one workshop is held strictly between Yoga and Baking.
(B) Exactly four workshops are held strictly between Yoga and Baking.
(C) Exactly two workshops are held strictly between Yoga and Baking.
(D) Exactly three workshops are held strictly between Yoga and Baking.

Q105. Which workshop is held on the day immediately before the Baking workshop?

- (A) The workshop held immediately before Baking is Gardening.
(B) The workshop held immediately before Baking is Origami.

- (C) The workshop held immediately before Baking is Photography.
(D) The workshop held immediately before Baking is Pottery.

Q106. Which of the following statements about the workshop schedule is NOT correct?

- (A) The Origami workshop is held on Wednesday.
(B) The Photography workshop is held immediately after the Gardening workshop.
(C) The Pottery workshop is the last one held during the week.
(D) The Baking workshop is held on the day immediately before the Origami workshop.

Q107. Suppose, hypothetically, that only the Yoga and Baking workshops swapped days with each other, with every other workshop staying on its original day. Exactly one of the original scheduling facts would then be broken. Which one?

- (A) Yoga is held immediately after Coding.
(B) Exactly one workshop is held between Yoga and Gardening.
(C) Photography is held immediately after Gardening.
(D) Pottery is held on the last day of the week.

Q108. Suppose the seven workshops were reassigned to Monday through Sunday in alphabetical order of their names, one on each day. How many of them would still fall on the day they occupy in the actual schedule?

- (A) No workshop remains on its original day of the week.
(B) Exactly one workshop remains on its original day of the week.
(C) Exactly two workshops remain on their original days of the week.
(D) Exactly three workshops remain on their original days of the week.

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PART 5: QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES
(Q109-Q120)

CASELET 1 (Q109-Q114)

Topic: Averages and Weighted Means

The Harborline Grain Cooperative collects sacks of wheat from five member farms during the first week of the harvest and records each farm's delivery separately in a paper logbook before releasing payment. Farm Alpha sent 20 sacks that averaged 50 kg each, Farm Beta sent 30 sacks that averaged 45 kg each, Farm Delta sent 15 sacks that averaged 40 kg each, and Farm Epsilon sent 10 sacks that averaged 55 kg each. Farm Gamma also sent 25 sacks that week, but the ink recording its per-sack average has smudged beyond reading in the paper logbook.

Fortunately, the depot's weighbridge separately printed the combined weight of all five farms' sacks together as 4700 kg for the week, and this weighbridge total is trusted even when a paper entry is damaged; across the five farms, the cooperative received 100 sacks in total. The cooperative's manager uses these weekly figures to see how each farm's harvest is progressing and to decide, farm by farm, whether a delivery is running above or below the season's usual pace.

Source: *Constructed Quantitative Caselet (Illustrative Figures)*

QUESTIONS

Q109. Using the weighbridge's combined figure for the week and the total number of sacks received from all five farms, what was the overall average weight per sack across the cooperative's entire intake that week?

- (A) 41.0 kg/sack
- (B) 41.5 kg/sack
- (C) 47.5 kg/sack
- (D) 47.0 kg/sack

Q110. Farm Gamma sent 25 sacks that week. Using the weighbridge's combined total for all five farms and the other four farms' known figures, what was Farm Gamma's average weight per sack?

- (A) 12 kg/sack
- (B) 72 kg/sack
- (C) 48 kg/sack
- (D) 44 kg/sack

Q111. After the week closed, the cooperative discovered that 4 of the sacks in Farm Beta's load had crossed the weighbridge before its platform was recalibrated: each was recorded at 45 kg when it really weighed 50 kg, so the week's printed combined total carries the same understatement. Once this correction is applied to the weighbridge's combined total, what is the corrected overall average weight per sack for the week, still across all 100 sacks?

- (A) 49.0 kg/sack
- (B) 47.2 kg/sack
- (C) 46.8 kg/sack
- (D) 47.4 kg/sack

Q112. A sixth farm, Zeta, later delivers 20 sacks that average 53 kg each, and this delivery is added to the week's figures. Using the weighbridge's printed combined total for the five farms, without the recalibration correction, by how much does the overall average weight per sack rise once Zeta's delivery is folded in, compared with the overall average weight per sack across the first five farms alone?

- (A) 3 kg
- (B) 1 kg
- (C) 10.6 kg
- (D) 6 kg

Q113. Consider the following statements based on the cooperative's data for the week: 1. Farm Gamma's total delivered weight exceeded Farm Alpha's total delivered weight. 2. Among the four farms whose per-sack average is directly known, Farm Epsilon's average weight per sack was the highest. 3. The combined delivered weight of Farm Delta and Farm Epsilon together exceeded Farm Beta's delivered weight alone. Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- (A) Statements 1 and 3 only
- (B) Statements 2 and 3 only
- (C) Statements 1, 2 and 3
- (D) Statements 1 and 2 only

Q114. What is the range, the difference between the highest and lowest values, of the per-sack average weight among the four farms whose logbook entries are directly legible, namely Alpha, Beta, Delta and Epsilon?

- (A) 15 kg
- (B) 55 kg
- (C) 800 kg
- (D) 47.5 kg

CASELET 2 (Q115-Q120)

Topic: Simple and Compound Interest

Sunrise Traders' Credit Society lends working capital to small vendors in the local market and charges each borrower a rate the loan officer fixes at the time of sanction, based on the loan's risk category. Naina borrows ₹20,000 for her vegetable stall at 8% per annum simple interest, to be repaid after 3 years. Farhan borrows ₹15,000 for a two-wheeler repair unit at 10% per annum, compounded annually, to be repaid after 2 years.

Kavita borrows a sum at 6% per annum simple interest for 4 years for her tailoring shop; when her loan matures, the interest component alone, excluding the principal she must also return, comes to ₹6,000. Suresh borrows ₹40,000 for a grocery cart at 5% per annum for 2 years, and the society is weighing whether

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to charge him simple interest or compound interest, compounded annually, on this loan. Meera borrows ₹18,000 for a flower stall at 12% per annum simple interest and plans to repay once the interest alone reaches a fixed fraction of what she originally borrowed. The society reviews every account once a year and never changes a rate once a loan has been sanctioned.

Source: *Constructed Quantitative Caselet (Illustrative Figures)*

QUESTIONS

Q115. Naina borrows ₹20,000 at 8% per annum simple interest, to be repaid after 3 years. How much interest alone does she owe at the end of 3 years?

- (A) ₹3,200
- (B) ₹4,800
- (C) ₹24,800
- (D) ₹5,400

Q116. Farhan borrows ₹15,000 at 10% per annum, compounded annually, to be repaid after 2 years. How much compound interest does he owe at the end of 2 years?

- (A) ₹3,000
- (B) ₹4,965
- (C) ₹3,150
- (D) ₹18,150

Q117. Kavita borrows a sum at 6% per annum simple interest for 4 years for her tailoring shop. When the loan matures, the interest component alone comes to ₹6,000. What sum did she originally borrow?

- (A) ₹20,000
- (B) ₹18,750
- (C) ₹25,000
- (D) ₹37,500

Q118. Suresh borrows ₹40,000 at 5% per annum for 2 years. If the society ultimately charges him compound interest, compounded annually, instead of simple interest, how much more interest would he pay over the 2 years compared to simple interest?

- (A) ₹100
- (B) ₹2,000
- (C) ₹4,100
- (D) ₹4,000

Q119. Meera borrows ₹18,000 at 12% per annum simple interest. After how many years and months will the interest alone equal three-fourths of the amount she originally borrowed?

- (A) 4 years 2 months
- (B) 7 years 6 months
- (C) 2 years 1 month
- (D) 6 years 3 months

Q120. Assertion (A): For the same principal, rate and time period beyond one year, compound interest, compounded annually, produces a larger interest amount than simple interest at the same rate. Reason (R): Compound interest is calculated afresh each year on the accumulated amount, the original principal plus all interest already earned, whereas simple interest is calculated every year only on the original principal. Which one of the following is correct?

- (A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is true, but R is false
- (D) A is false, but R is true
