

Round 1

Section 1 – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Jhuri the vegetable farmer had two bullocks named Hira and Moti. Both were of fine Pachai stock, of great stature, beautiful to behold, and diligent at their labours. The two had lived together for a very long time and became sworn brothers. Face to face or side by side they would hold discussions in their silent language. How each understood the other's thoughts we cannot say, but they certainly possessed some mysterious power. They would express their love by licking and sniffing one another, and sometimes they would even lock horns – not from hostility but rather out of friendship and a sense of fun, the way friends as soon as they become intimate slap and pummel one another; any friendship lacking such displays seems rather superficial and insipid and not to be trusted. When they were released from the yoke after their day's work at noon or in the evening they would lick and nuzzle one another to ease their fatigue. When the oilseed cake and straw was tossed into the manger they would stand up together, thrust their muzzles into the trough together, and sit down side-by-side. When one withdrew his mouth, the other would do so too.

On one occasion Jhuri sent the pair to his father-in-law's. How could the bullocks know why they were being sent away? They assumed that the master had sold them. If God had given them speech, they would have asked Jhuri, "Why are you throwing us poor wretches out! We've done everything possible to serve you well. If working as hard as we did couldn't get the job done, you could have made us work still harder. We were willing to die labouring for you. We never complained about the food, whatever you gave us to eat we bowed our heads and ate it, so why did you sell us into the hands of this tyrant?"

– *Excerpted from "Two Bullocks", by Premchand*

1) Read these two statements:

I. The two bullocks loved each other.

II. Jhuri loved the bullocks.

Pick ONE of these options

- a) Both I and II are true
- b) I is true, but II is not
- c) II is true, but I is not
- d) Both I and II are untrue

2) The bullocks were:

- a) delighted to be sent away
- b) neutral to be sent away
- c) confused to be sent away
- d) enraged to be sent away

3) The bullocks had a “silent language”. This indicates that they

- a) had telepathy
- b) could not hear each other
- c) had a somewhat formal relationship
- d) had close friendship

4) The passage says that Hira and Moti were “diligent in their labours”. This means that:

- a) They were hardworking
- b) They were relaxed
- c) They liked Jhuri
- d) They liked labourers

5) The bond between the bullocks can be described as

- a) Rational
- b) Emotional
- c) Verbal
- d) Inconsequential

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

In the informal settlement of Seemapuri in Delhi, Rihanna sees her mother leave for work early every morning, come back around noon to make and serve food for the family, and then go back to work till 4 pm. “My mother is a waste segregator,” explains Rihanna, and this is her daily routine, come rain, hail or the gruelling sun of a Delhi summer. Many women in Seemapuri are engaged in waste work and have a similar routine.

Settlements such as Seemapuri often lack essentials such as water, electricity, and proper sewerage systems. Inside homes, the kitchen is typically the hottest part with minimal or zero ventilation. Some women say they try to cook early in the morning to avoid the unbearable afternoon heat, but some do not have any option but to cook during the hottest part of the day, as Rihanna’s mother does.

While the word ‘home’ often evokes a sense of comfort for many people, it is not necessarily a place of comfort for many Indian women. Consider a woman cooking in the kitchen three

times a day during a scorching heat wave – can we truly call that comfort? Women face some of the highest exposure to heat stress in domestic spaces, such as kitchens and are deeply impacted by it. Many of them live in informal settlements such as bastis, chawls, or resettlement colonies, where the cycle of unpaid and often invisible domestic labour continues without recognition.

According to some media reports, Delhi has around 750 big and small slums housing approximately 3.5 lakh families and nearly 20 lakh people. Most homes in such settlements have congested rooms, with no ventilation and are constructed with tin sheets that absorb and trap heat, making indoor spaces extremely hot and humid. Combined with the lack of clean water and sanitation, this intensifies the impact of climate events such as prolonged heat waves. Women, in particular, shoulder the worst of this crisis as caregivers, workers, and homemakers who are not just exposed to the outdoor heat, but also to indoor heat while cooking and managing households.

– Excerpts from Vaishali Upadhyay (2025) (<https://citizenmatters.in/cooking-health-hazard-heat-impact-on-women-in-the-kitchen/>)

6) According to the passage, what work does Rihanna's mother do?

- a) Domestic worker
- b) Construction site worker
- c) Vegetable seller
- d) Waste separator

7) Why does Rihanna's mother cook during the hottest part of the day?

- a) Due to her work schedule
- b) The kitchen does not have electricity in the morning
- c) Water for cooking is not available in the morning
- d) The kitchen has poor ventilation

8) According to the passage, why do many Indian women not find comfort at home?

- a) Because it is not their maternal home
- b) Because they live in joint family set ups
- c) Because they have to do all the domestic work
- d) Because they work in high heat environments at home

9) According to the passage, why are slum settlements in Delhi more vulnerable to heat?

- a) They are constructed with tin sheets

- b) They do not have air conditioning
- c) They have no electricity connection
- d) They are illegal settlements

10) According to the passage, which of the statements is true?

- a) Women get paid for their labour at home
- b) Women can avoid doing household work
- c) Women get exposed to outdoor and indoor heat
- d) Women get a lot of free time during the day

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

To discuss the various ways of talking about nationalism in schools, it is good to place them within a theory of group identities. Group identities appear to have been present in humans from their earliest times. Whether as genders or bands or ethnic groups or castes or empires or nations, group identities are one of the building blocks of our existence as human beings. They influence how others see us and how we see ourselves as well. They shape what we may expect from others and also the roles we play. Their character can serve to bring people together in fraternity and justice or can lean towards exclusion, discrimination and oppression. Social identities like those of caste, gender and nationality may play a key role in constructing relationships between individuals and groups. In today's times, one of the most powerful large-scale identities is that of nationhood.

In times when trade and communication have brought together geographically distant places and made them politically and socially interdependent, nationalism has emerged as one of the most influential group identities in the world. It is important to pay attention to how it is being addressed in school education.

The term 'nation' is used in India in several ways. What the Constitution calls India or Bharat cannot be seen as this kind of mono-ethnic nation because its citizens include a large number of ethnic groups. At the same time, an important argument for seeking independence from the English nation was that we were a separate nation from them. The English argued that India did not constitute a nation since it was made up of so many different communities, castes and 'races'. Many Indians strongly disputed this and demanded their independence on the same grounds that England had sought to keep itself independent of French rule.

The questions of who the members of the nation are and what their relation is to each other are thus important ones and often fraught with tensions. Part of the difficulty is that there is no objective way of defining what is an ethnic group or a nation.

– Adapted from Amman Madan, *“Who is a Fellow Indian? Towards a Dialogue Between 2006 and 2024 Editions of Grade 6 NCERT Social Studies”*, *Contemporary Education Dialogue* (2025).

11) According to the author, when are group identities first seen in humans?

- a) From prehistoric times
- b) From the time caste developed
- c) From the time of fraternity and justice
- d) From the time of building blocks

12) In the first paragraph, when the author says, “Their character can serve...” whose character do they mean?

- a) The character of the earliest human beings
- b) The character of empires
- c) The character of group identities
- d) The character of schools

13) The author says that researchers of school education should focus on

- a) exclusion, discrimination and oppression
- b) nationalism
- c) caste and gender
- d) trade and communication

14) Which of the following is NOT true:

- a) India is multi-ethnic
- b) India is a nation
- c) The British believed (a) and (b)
- d) The British believed (a) but not (b)

15) In the last paragraph, which word or phrase comes closest in meaning to “fraught”?

- a) groaning
- b) slippery
- c) straining
- d) filled

Section 2: GENERAL AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

16) Find the odd one out:

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Diabetes
- c) COVID
- d) Typhoid

17) If LION can be written as NIOL, BEAR can be written as REAB, and CROW can be written as WROC, how can we write DUCK?

- a) KUCD
- b) KCUD
- c) DUCK
- d) DCUK

18) If you are a jogger, there is no need to go to a gym. Your neighbourhood can be your gym. You don't need a lot of fancy equipment to get a good workout, either. All you require is a well-designed pair of athletic shoes.

Which of the following statements is best supported by the above paragraph?

- a) Jogging is a better form of exercise than weightlifting.
- b) A membership in a gym is a poor investment.
- c) Jogging is a convenient and valuable form of exercise.
- d) Poorly designed athletic shoes can cause major foot injuries.

19) At present, the ratio between the ages of Mohan and Sohan is 2 : 3. After 4 years, Mohan's age will be 30 years. What is the age of Sohan at present?

- a) 33 years
- b) 39 years
- c) 32 years
- d) 35 years

20) A map has a scale of 1 : 50000. This means that 1 centimetre on the map is the same as 50,000 cm on the ground. If the measured distance between two towns on the map is 8 centimetres, what is the actual distance between two towns in kilometres?

- a) 4 kilometres
- b) 5 kilometres
- c) 8 kilometres

- d) 40 kilometres

The following passage discusses the number of deaths reported in India in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. Please read it carefully to answer questions.

India officially reported 4.8 Lakh deaths due to COVID. In 2025, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India released the Report on Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS) - 2021. According to this report, there were 102.2 Lakh deaths in India in the year 2021 in total. The same Office reported 81.2 Lakh deaths for the year 2020, and 76.4 Lakh deaths for the year 2019. As per the 5th round of National Family Health Survey (2019), an official survey conducted by Indian Institute of Population Sciences, only 72% of the actual number of deaths get registered in India.

[Adapted from: Gupta and Banaji 2025.

https://www.theindiaforum.in/sites/default/files/article_pdf/2025/07/12/1823-1752291788.pdf]

21) How many excess deaths were reported in India's CRS in the years 2020 and 2021, respectively, as compared to the year 2019?

- a) 81.2 Lakh, 102.2 Lakh
- b) 76.4 Lakh, 97.4 Lakh
- c) 4.8 Lakh, 25.8 Lakh
- d) 4.8 Lakh, 21.0 Lakh

22) How many times were the 'excess deaths' in 2021 (vs 2019) as compared to the number of COVID deaths officially reported by India?

- a) Same
- b) 4 times
- c) 5 times
- d) 6 times

23) Read the following two statements:

Assertion (A): The actual number of deaths due to COVID may be even higher than the 'excess death' estimate based on the CRS data

Reason (R): A significant proportion of deaths do not get registered in the CRS

Based on the information given in the above paragraph, select the correct option.

- a) A is true but R is not the reason for A

- b) A is true and R is a reason for A
- c) Both A and R are true, but they are unrelated
- d) Both A and R are false

Based on the provided table of data on area under cultivation for vegetables and fruits for the state of Punjab, answer the questions

Commodity	Area under cultivation (in thousands hectares)				
	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Vegetables	317	300	287	265	249
Fruits	110	106	103	99	95

24) In which year, the difference between the area under fruit cultivation and area under vegetable cultivation was the lowest?

- a) 2022-23
- b) 2021-22
- c) 2020-21
- d) 2018-19

25) Calculate the percentage increase (rounded off to nearest integer) in area under fruit cultivation from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

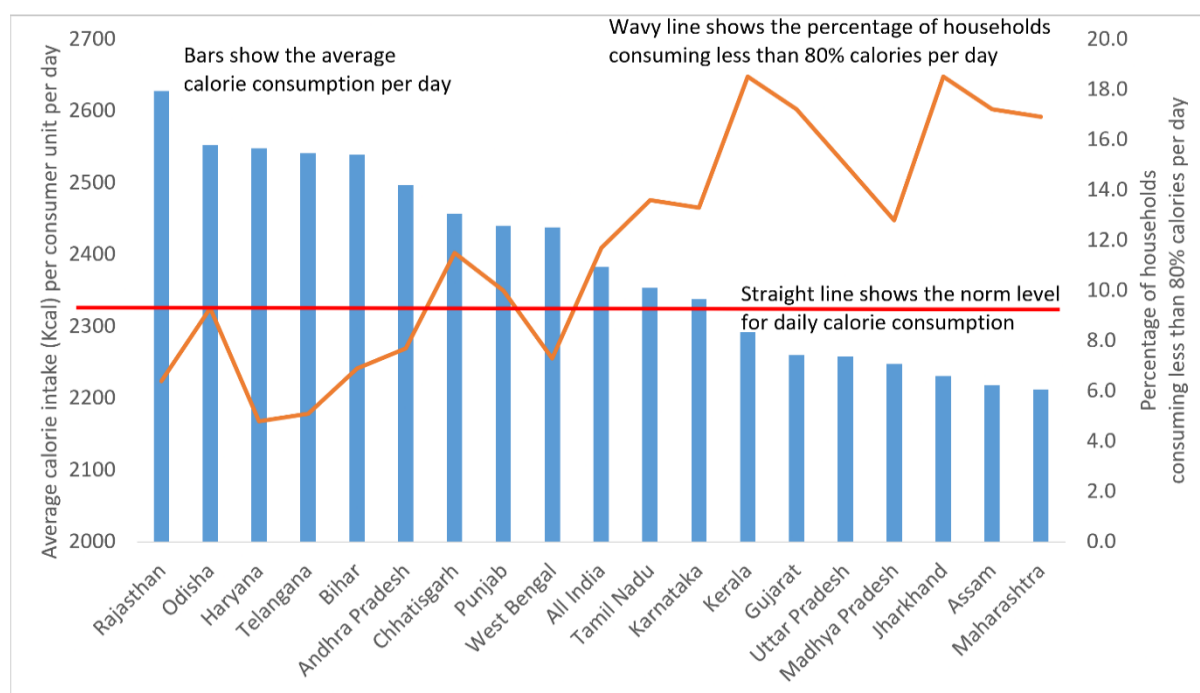
- a) 16
- b) 10
- c) 6
- d) 20

26) Which of the following statement is correct?

- a) The difference between area under fruit cultivation and area under vegetable cultivation has increased from 2018-19 to 2022-23
- b) From 2018-19 to 2022-23, the percentage increase in area under fruit cultivation is less than the percentage increase in area under vegetable cultivation.
- c) Punjab added the least amount of area under vegetable cultivation during 2021-22 to 2022-23.

- d) In the year 2022-23, the area under vegetable cultivation is more than three times the area under fruits cultivation.

The graph below shows information about average daily calorie consumption and the percentage of households whose daily calorie consumption is less than 80% of the norm in major states in India and at the “All India” level. Study the graph carefully and answer questions.



[Adapted from: Nutritional Intake in India (2022-23 & 2023-24) report, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, June 2025]

27) The average calorie consumption per day at All India level is in between:

- a) 2200 – 2300
- b) 10.0 – 12.0
- c) 2300 – 2400
- d) 8.0 – 12.0

28) The percentage of households at All India level whose daily calorie consumption is less than 80% of the norm is between:

- a) 2200 – 2300
- b) 10.0 – 12.0
- c) 2300 – 2400
- d) 8.0 – 10.0

29) Which of the following statements for the State of Tamil Nadu is FALSE?

- a) Its average daily calorie consumption is higher than the norm by around 25 points.
- b) Its average calorie consumption is lower than All India average by around 25 points.
- c) More than 12% of the households in Tamil Nadu consume less than 80% calories per day.
- d) Its average calorie consumption is higher than that of Bihar by around 200 points.

30) Read the following two statements:

I. Even if the average daily calorie consumption in a State is above the norm, there are several households who consume less than 80% of the norm.

II. Generally speaking, the States having a higher average daily calorie consumption have a lower percentage of households with daily calorie consumption less than 80% of the norm.

Based on the above graph, which of these two statements is / are correct?

- a) Only statement I is correct
- b) Only statement II is correct
- c) Both statements are correct
- d) Both statements are incorrect

Section 3: SOCIAL AWARENESS

31) The new Labour Codes aim to rationalize which of the following?

- a) Environmental protection regulations
- b) Multiple wage definitions and working hour limits
- c) Animal welfare laws
- d) Food safety standards

32) Which sector does the Govt of India run scheme MGNREGA primarily target?

- a) Urban employment
- b) Media regulation
- c) Industrial growth
- d) Rural employment

33) Which article of the Indian Constitution abolishes 'untouchability'?

- a) Article 14
- b) Article 19
- c) Article 17
- d) Article 21

34) What does the term 'urbanization' mean?

- a) Movement of people from cities to villages
- b) Growth of cities and towns
- c) Decline in industrial jobs
- d) Increase in literacy rates

35) The term 'marginalisation' in social justice context means:

- a) Giving more opportunities to all
- b) Equal resource distribution
- c) Exclusion of certain groups from mainstream society
- d) Development of urban areas

36) Which law first legally defined gig workers in India?

- a) Minimum Wages Act, 1948
- b) Code on Social Security, 2020
- c) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- d) Payment of Wages Act, 1936

37) Which constitutional body resolves disputes between Indian states?

- a) Inter-State Council
- b) Election Commission
- c) National Human Rights Commission
- d) Union Public Service Commission

38) The Press Council of India is a statutory body established to:

- a) Regulate film content
- b) Ensure ethics and standards in print media
- c) Regulate television broadcasts
- d) Manage social media platforms

39) Tamil Nadu's social justice politics gave rise to which welfare scheme?

- a) MGNREGA
- b) Jan Dhan Yojana
- c) Public Distribution System
- d) Midday Meal Scheme

40) Which South Indian state had a major Peasant and Tribal movement led by Komaram Bheem?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Telangana

Section 4: DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

ECCE

Instructions

- **The first question is compulsory. Please answer one of the other two questions.**
- **The first question has 3 sub-parts which can be answered in 300-400 words in total. The second question can be answered in 300-400 words.**
- **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**

1. Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions below.

“Children are natural learners. They are active, eager to learn, and respond with interest in new things. They have an innate sense of curiosity—they wonder, question, explore, try out, and discover to make sense of the world. By acting on their curiosity, they continue to discover and learn more. Children learn best through play—through activity and doing. They like to run, jump, crawl, and balance, they enjoy repetition, they respond spontaneously to rhythm, they talk, they ask, and they reason, and answer questions posed to them. They learn by first-hand experiences involving manipulation, exploration, and experimentation. This playfulness with materials, ideas, thoughts, and feelings helps in developing children's creativity, flexible thinking, and problem-solving abilities, and enhances their concentration,

attention, and perseverance. Children improve their thinking, vocabulary, imagination, speaking, and listening skills through play, whether they are reconstructing real situations or creating imaginary worlds. Learning at this stage is, therefore, an active and interactive process in which children learn through play and through interaction with other children and more experienced others. Children are actively engaged in their social and cultural experiences, and they constantly adjust and use new information to make sense of their perceptions and their experiences.” (NCF FS 2022, Section 1.4, pp 38)

- a. What qualities make children natural learners?
- b. How is play related to learning in early years?
- c. Based on the passage, what characteristics should effective learning environments have?

2. Discuss any international or Indian ECCE initiative that contributes to the care and education of children

OR

3. What are some of the areas that ECCE teachers should be trained in?

MA DEVELOPMENT

Descriptive Essay

In the following descriptive question, we consider your overall ability to respond to a given issue of importance. Answer any one of the questions given. The answer should be 400-600 words in length. Avoid writing in bullet point forms. Your response will be assessed for the following aspects:

- a) Your ability to take an informed position
- b) Application of social awareness and critical thinking
- c) Inclusion of diverse perspectives
- d) Coherent writing

Will the proposed reservation of seats for women in State Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha necessarily lead to political empowerment of women?

Or

Stampedes have repeatedly occurred of late in India during large gatherings, from religious events to sports matches and political rallies. Critically examine the lessons these incidents provide for civic responsibility and crowd management.

MA EDUCATION - LANGUAGE

Set 1

Instructions:

Answer any two of the following questions in 300 to 400 words, each.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.

Q. 1. It is often said that children speaking many different languages in a classroom make teaching difficult or even impossible. What do you think about this, and why? Support your answer with examples.

Q. 2: Often, students do not read original works of literature; instead, they depend on short summaries. What is your view on this?

Q. 3: What are your thoughts on using stories from epics, fables and classical literature in the language classroom? Please elaborate your response with a few examples.

Q. 4: Nilima, teaching sound-letter correspondence in English, introduced the letter “k” with “kite” and “Kangaroo”. She then asked her students to provide more examples of words that start with this sound. In response, Aman says “Kitaab”. Nilima tells Aman that “kitaab” is not a word in English, and therefore, his response isn’t valid.

If you were the teacher, what would you say to Aman and why?

MA EDUCATION - MATHS

Descriptive Questions: QP Set 1

Set 1

Instructions

There are two sections in this part. Each section is compulsory. Answer any one question from each of the sections.

Each response should be 300-400 words.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topic.

Section 1:

- A. In your understanding, what are the reasons for many school children finding mathematics difficult? Give examples to substantiate your argument from your own personal experience.

OR

- B. What were some of the different ways in which your mathematics teachers taught you at school? Which of them helped you learn and why?

Section 2:

- A. Observe the following statements.

$$1=1$$

$$1+3=4$$

$$1+3+5=9$$

$$1+3+5+7=16$$

What is the pattern that you notice here? List three more examples of the same pattern. What is the n^{th} equation in this sequence? What do you notice about the sums in each case? Why do you think we get such numbers as the sum?

OR

- B. Children learn multiplication as repeated addition and conclude that multiplication of two numbers results in a product bigger than the multiplicands. Do you agree? Give examples and reasons to justify your answer.
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MA EDUCATION - SCIENCE

Set 1

Please answer any two questions which are serially numbered out of the four that are given. All sub-questions within each numbered question that you choose, should also be answered.

1. List and explain at least two differences between the *causative agents* of malaria, tuberculosis and COVID-19 disease based on understanding classification of living organisms.
2. A car cruises steadily down the highway at 60 mph. Wind resistance and friction oppose the car's motion. Those backward forces have a combined strength of 5000 Newtons. The car's engine causes a forward force to be exerted on the car. Is this forward force less than 5000 Newtons, equal to 5000 Newtons, or greater than 5000 Newtons? Explain your answer using the 'laws of motion'.
3. In a thermal decomposition reaction, Ferrous sulphate crystals ($\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$) lose water when heated. The colour of the crystals also changes. It then decomposes to three simpler compounds: ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3), sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and sulphur trioxide (SO_3). Ferric oxide is a solid, while the other two compounds are gases (SO_2 , SO_3). What will happen if Lead nitrate undergoes thermal decomposition? Write a balanced equation for the chemical reaction. Also mention whether products are solids, liquids or gases. Suggest chemical reactions for the confirmatory tests of the products.
4. A protected wetland ecosystem, known for its rich biodiversity, has been experiencing gradual drying over the past decade due to climate change and upstream water diversion. To conserve this critical habitat, environmental managers implement an ambitious engineering project: they construct channels to divert water from a nearby river into the wetland, successfully restoring its water levels. Within two years, the wetland appears healthier with expanded aquatic vegetation. However, conservation biologists notice alarming changes:
 - Several endemic fish species that were previously abundant have disappeared.
 - The populations of common, widespread water birds have increased dramatically.
 - Water quality tests show significantly increased turbidity and nutrient levels.

Based on the observations mentioned above, answer the following questions:

- (i) The diversion project brought water from a different watershed with distinct water chemistry. Propose two interconnected mechanisms by which the introduction of this "foreign" water could have caused the decline of endemic

fish species, considering both direct physiological effects and ecological interactions.

Explain how these changes in water chemistry and fish populations created conditions that favoured generalist water birds over the specialized species that originally inhabited the wetland. Your answer should describe a cascade effect through the food

MA EDUCATION - SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructions:

- **There are four questions in this section. You are required to choose and answer any two of them.**
 - **Each response should be around 300-400 words.**
 - **Please answer the questions using ideas, concepts, theories or perspectives from either one or more social science disciplines like Geography, Sociology, Economics, History and Political Science as relevant.**
 - **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**
1. The kind of education a person receives depends largely on one's background in society. Using concepts from the social sciences, what are your views on this statement?
 2. Many people in our country do not eat nutritious food every day. How would social scientists explain this phenomenon?
 3. Should school history textbooks only focus on political history, such as important rulers (mostly male) and their achievements? What is your opinion on this? Explain with relevant examples.
 4. "India is a poor country because it is highly populated. To reduce poverty, we must arrest population growth." Argue for or against this view, using ideas from the field of economics.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Instructions

Choose **ANY ONE** from the questions given below. The length of the essay should not be less than 700 words, excluding the title, and any references (if provided). Make sure your essay has a clear structure and flows logically. Focus on expressing your ideas, thoughts, perspectives, and draw on your observations and experiences as relevant.

- i. “The advances in science made medicines, vaccines, medical technologies, and communication technologies within the reach of the masses. However, access to and benefit from these advances are not the same for all in the population.” Do you agree with this statement? Or do you disagree? Discuss with suitable examples.

OR

- ii. It is estimated that around 10-20% of adolescents experience mental health challenges, with high rates of anxiety and depression reported in this group. Discuss the possible causes of poor mental health among adolescents today and suggest strategies to address these challenges.

OR

- iii. Describe any major health challenge faced by people in rural India and what according to you are the possible ways to address this challenge?
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Round 2

Section 1 – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Next morning, Ramu found a crowd of curious children surrounding a jeep and three strangers with guns. Each of the strangers had a gun, and they were accompanied by two bearers and a vast amount of provisions.

They had heard that there was a tiger in the area, and they wanted to shoot it.

One of the hunters, who looked even more strange than the others, had come all the way from America to shoot a tiger, and he vowed that he would not leave the country without a tiger's skin in his baggage.

These men had money to spend, and as most of the villagers needed money badly they were only too willing to go into the forest to construct a machan for the hunters. The platform, big enough to take the three men, was put up in the branches of a tall tun, or mahogany, tree.

It was the only night the hunters used the machan. At the end of March, though the days are warm, the nights are still cold. The hunters had neglected to bring blankets, and by midnight their teeth were chattering. Ramu, having tied up a buffalo calf for them at the foot of the tree, made as if to go home but instead circled the area, hanging up bits and pieces of old clothing on small trees and bushes. He thought he owed that much to the tiger. He knew the wily old king of the jungle would keep well away from the bait if he saw the bits of clothing—for where there were men's clothes, there would be men.

The vigil lasted well into the night but the tiger did not come near the tun tree. Perhaps he wasn't hungry; perhaps he got Ramu's message. In any case, the men in the tree soon gave themselves away.

The cold was really too much for them. A flask of rum was produced, and passed round, and it was not long before there was more purpose to finishing the rum than to finishing off a tiger. Silent at first, the men soon began talking in whispers; and to jungle creatures a human whisper is as telling as a trumpet call.

Soon the men were quite merry, talking in loud voices. And when the first morning light crept over the forest, and Ramu and his friends came back to fetch the great hunters, they found them fast asleep in the machan.

— Adapted from Ruskin Bond, *"Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright"*, *Collected Short Stories* (Penguin, 1996, 2016)

1) What can be inferred from the "vast amount of provisions"?

- a) There were many strangers
- b) They brought food for the villagers
- c) The strangers were very hungry
- d) They were prepared for a long stay

2) The strangers were in the village because:

- a) They knew that there was a tiger there
- b) One of them had seen a tiger there
- c) They had been told that there was a tiger there
- d) Tigers lived around the village

3) “It was the only night the hunters used the machan.” This means:

- a) The hunters used the machan only that night
- b) Only the hunters used the machan that night
- c) The hunters used the machan only during the night
- d) The hunters used only that machan that night

4) Which of the following statements about Ramu is NOT true?

- a) He does not refuse to help the hunters
- b) He does not care what happens to the tiger
- c) He knows well the cleverness of the tiger
- d) He saw the “great hunters” asleep in the morning

5) What word best describes the tone of the passage?

- a) Humorous
- b) Elated
- c) Serious
- d) Critical

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Dalit women in India die younger than upper-caste women, face discrimination in accessing healthcare, and lag on almost all health indicators. This is borne out by recent data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

For Dalits, who make 16.6% of the total population, health inequalities result from both past and ongoing discrimination, including limited educational opportunities, high health risk occupations they are forced to take up, discrimination in access to land, employment, housing, and other resources. Here’s the health status of the women from the community. On all counts, they do worse than the national average:

According to the recent data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), among the women in the age group 25-49 who have anaemia, 55.9 % are Dalits. The national average among Indians is 53%. One in four women among the Dalits in the 15-49 age bracket is undernourished according to their Body Mass Index (BMI). In comparison, one in six women

among the upper castes has a similar nutritional profile. Among Dalits, 52.2 % of women in the age group 15-49 years had a live birth in the presence of a doctor in the preceding five years. For the upper castes, it is 66.8%.

Under Indian law, it is a punishable offence to refuse admission to a hospital, dispensary, etc, based on “untouchability.” Still in 2016, the nursing staff of the Puranpur community health centre in Uttar Pradesh allegedly refused to admit a pregnant Dalit woman. The woman delivered the baby unassisted, and the child died a few hours after being born. This was not the only case. Dalits are denied admission to hospitals and access to healthcare and treatment. In a number of cases, those who are admitted receive discriminatory treatment.

The NFHS finding backs up a 2015 Lancet report, ‘Health and the Indian caste system’, by Paul Kowal and Sara Afshar, which says at least three factors are associated with how the caste system affects health: genetics, early environment, and opportunities due to social mobility.

– Ashwaq Masoodi and Ajai Sreevatsan (2018), *Dalit women in India die younger than upper caste counterparts:* Report |
(<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Dy9bHke2B5vQcWJJWNo6QK/Dalit-women-in-India-die-younger-than-upper-caste-counterpar.html>)

6) What does the passage imply about institutional deliveries?

- a) Dalit women are more likely to have doctor-assisted births than upper-caste women
- b) 67% of Dalit women had doctor-assisted births, compared to 52% of upper-caste women
- c) 52% of Dalit women had doctor-assisted births, compared to 67% of upper-caste women
- d) Both groups have equal rates of doctor-assisted births

7) According to the passage, the primary reason Dalit women face health inequalities is:

- a) Historical and ongoing discrimination across multiple domains
- b) Their lack of interest in modern medical facilities
- c) Genetic predispositions exclusive to the Dalit population
- d) Their preference for traditional healing practices over allopathic medicine

8) The passage’s reference to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data on anaemia among Dalit women indicates that:

- a) Dalit women have a lower anaemia rate than the national average
- b) 56% of Dalit women suffer from anaemia, exceeding the national average
- c) Anaemia is equally prevalent among Dalit and upper-caste women
- d) Anaemia rates are higher among upper-caste women than Dalit women

9) The passage's mention of the Puranpur community health centre incident in 2016 serves to illustrate:

- a) The effectiveness of Indian laws against untouchability in healthcare
- b) A rare instance of healthcare access denial for Dalit women
- c) The persistent discrimination faced by Dalit women in medical settings
- d) The improvement in maternal healthcare for Dalit women

10) In the passage, the term "high health risk occupations" most likely refers to:

- a) Jobs that Dalits choose for their flexibility
- b) Professions that expose Dalits to health hazards because of systemic constraints
- c) Medical roles that Dalits are trained to undertake
- d) Occupations with equal risk across all caste groups

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound* (2025) is a reminder that 'home' in India is not always a place of refuge — it can be a site of exclusion and humiliation. The title plays on an uncomfortable duality: to be homebound is both to yearn for the comfort of belonging, only to be shackled by structures that deny basic dignity and humanity to those marked by caste or faith. For Shoaib and Chandan, two friends on the margins of India's social fabric, the road home is not simply a physical return, but a confrontation with the forces that make them outsiders in their own land. Ghaywan uses this dual resonance to probe a larger question — what is home for Dalit, Muslim, and other marginalised communities in a country that too often reminds them they do not belong?

The journey that Shoaib and Chandan undergo in *Homebound*, reckoning with the internalised shame of being reminded of their identity at every step, is also Ghaywan's, and finds resonance in how marginalised communities right across India carry the invisible burden of having to fight for basic rights and dignity in a social structure that exists to dehumanise them.

In the current cultural climate of India, where caste has all but disappeared from the big screen, especially for Hindi-language film audiences, the arrival of two Hindi films prominently centred around protagonists from Dalit backgrounds — Ghaywan's *Homebound* and Shazia Iqbal's *Dhadak 2* (2025) — in the same year, feels like a watershed moment.

Homebound outlines the inseparable bond between two migrant worker friends from Uttar Pradesh in North India, who rise beyond caste and religious fault lines, set against the backdrop of the deadly first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. New data reveals that India's actual death toll during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic could be eight times higher than the government's official numbers. In 2020, the life expectancy of an upper-caste Indian of the Hindu faith went down by 1.3 years. In the same year, the average lifespan for people from the

‘Scheduled Castes’ communities decreased by 2.7 years. Indian Muslims fared the worst — their life expectancy decreased by 5.4 years.

– Virat Nehru (2025) *MIFF Review: Cast(e) Aside — Reframing ‘Home’ in Neeraj Ghaywan’s Homebound*. <https://www.thecurb.com.au/miff-review-homebound-neeraj-ghaywan/>

11) In the passage, the term “social fabric” most likely refers to:

- a) The economic structure of society
- b) The physical infrastructure of rural areas
- c) The interconnected cultural and social relationships
- d) The religious doctrines governing migrant workers

12) The passage’s use of the term “watershed moment” to describe the release of *Homebound* and *Dhadak 2* implies:

- a) A temporary trend in Hindi cinema
- b) A focus on urban rather than rural narratives
- c) A decline in the quality of Hindi films
- d) A significant turning point in addressing caste on screen

13) The passage’s description of “home” as a “site of exclusion and humiliation” for Shoaib and Chandan suggests that:

- a) Social structures like caste and religion prevent them from feeling a sense of belonging
- b) Their physical homes are unsafe due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- c) They reject their cultural identities to assimilate into mainstream society
- d) Their migrant status is unrelated to their social marginalization

14) What does the passage imply about the “dual resonance” of the title *Homebound* in relation to marginalized communities?

- a) It reflects the economic benefits and challenges of returning home
- b) It captures both the desire for belonging and the barriers posed by social inequities
- c) It emphasizes the physical journey over emotional struggles
- d) It highlights the universal acceptance of Dalit and Muslim identities

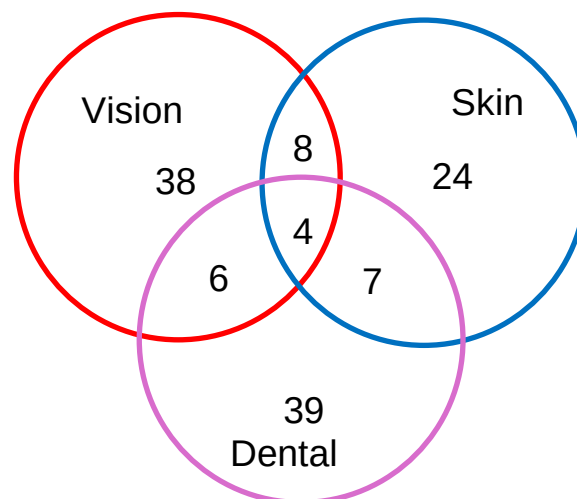
15) The passage’s reference to the “invisible burden” carried by marginalized communities primarily suggests:

- a) The economic costs of migration during the COVID-19 pandemic

- b) The temporary challenges faced during the first wave of the pandemic
 - c) The lack of representation of caste issues in Indian cinema
 - d) The ongoing struggle for basic rights and dignity within a discriminatory social structure
-

Section 2 : GENERAL AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

16) After a Health Camp in a Higher Secondary School in Pushprajgarh Block of Anuppur District in Madhya Pradesh, the number of children found to be having vision-related problems (red circle), skin problems (blue circle) and dental problems (purple circle) were shown as follows:



What is the number of children who suffer from skin and dental problems, but not from vision-related problems?

- a) 4
 - b) 7
 - c) 11
 - d) 70
- 17) Which of the following words CANNOT be formed using the letters of the word HETEROGENEOUS?
- a) Estrogen
 - b) Honest
 - c) Genesis

d) Routes

18) Assume the following statement to be true and identify the correct conclusions.

Statement: The best evidence of India's glorious past is the growing popularity of Ayurvedic medicines in the West.

Conclusions:

I. Ayurvedic medicines are not popular in India

II. Allopathic medicines are more popular in India

- a) Only conclusion I is correct
- b) Only conclusion II is correct
- c) Both conclusions are correct
- d) Neither of the conclusions is correct

19) What conclusion can be drawn from the following statement?

Major decline in number of deaths due to Tuberculosis (TB) in England had already happened before the first anti-TB medicine was discovered.

- a) TB is a disease which always leads to death
- b) Anti-TB drugs do not have any significant role in preventing deaths from TB
- c) England has a very low number of TB cases, primarily because of anti-TB medicines
- d) There are factors other than medicines which reduce the number of deaths from TB

20) Pointing to a photograph of a boy, Vikas said, "He is the son of son of my mother." What relation Vikas can not have with the boy in the photograph?

- a) Father
- b) Uncle
- c) Brother
- d) Can not be determined

Read the following text and answer questions 21 to 23:

High domestic costs are linked to falling production, declining acreage, stagnating productivity, and a weak cotton-to-lint ratio. Cultivation costs have also risen. Provisional estimates show north Indian farmers shifting to paddy and Gujarat farmers to soyabean and groundnut. In terms of productivity, Indian cotton took big leaps in the per hectare lint output ratio, especially in the post 2004-05 period. Average lint yield rose from 207 kg/hectare (1997-2002) to 481 kg/hectare (2012-17). The current yield of 437 kg/hectare, although above pre-

2000 levels, lags considerably behind the world average of 833 kg/hectare, Brazil's 1,903 kg/hectare, and China's 2,257 kg/hectare.

21) The current yield of Indian cotton lags behind world average by:

- a) 396 kg/hectare
- b) 352 kg/hectare
- c) 626 kg/hectare
- d) 107 kg/hectare

22) Select the option that shows the correct ascending order of average cotton productivity.

- a) China, India, Brazil, World
- b) Brazil, World, India, China
- c) India, World, Brazil, China
- d) World, India, Brazil, China

23) Consider a village with a total 100 hectares of land suitable for cotton cultivation in the year 2017. If the trends for area under cultivation and cotton productivity in the village is same as that of the national trends, calculate the decrease in total lint yield from the cotton cultivated in the village from 2017 to current year.

- a) 4,400 kilogram
- b) 9,220 kilogram
- c) 1,000 kilogram
- d) 8,202 kilogram

Study the following table and answer questions 24-26 based on it:

Classification of 100 Students Based on the Marks Obtained by them in Physics and Chemistry in an Examination.

Subject	Marks out of 50				
	40 and above	30 and above	20 and above	10 and above	0 and above
Physics	9	32	80	92	100
Chemistry	4	21	66	81	100
Average (Aggregate)	7	27	73	87	100

24) If 20 marks is considered pass, how many students passed in Chemistry?

- a) 81
- b) 21
- c) 4
- d) 66

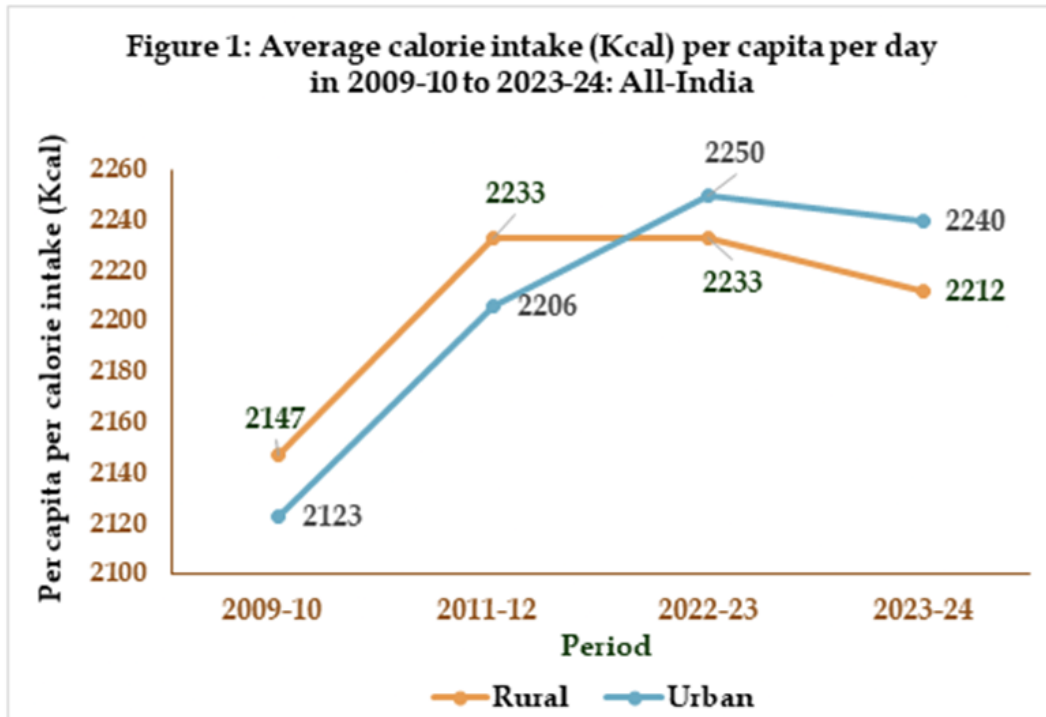
25) How many students secured 60% and above marks in Physics?

- a) 9
- b) 32
- c) 80
- d) 92

26) How many students secured less than 40% in aggregate?

- a) 7
- b) 73
- c) 27
- d) 87

Based on a careful reading of the following graph, answer the questions 27 to 30:



27) Identify the year when the average calorie intake of urban India crossed rural India for the first time.

- a) 2023-24
- b) 2022-23
- c) 2009-11
- d) 2011-12

28) Identify the year in which the absolute difference between average calorie intake of urban and rural was the highest.

- a) 2023-24
- b) 2011-12
- c) 2022-23
- d) 2009-10

29) The overall increase in average calorie consumption from 2009-10 to 2023-24 for both rural and urban India has been between:

- a) 10% - 15%
- b) Less than 1%
- c) 20% - 30%
- d) 2% - 8%

30) Which of the following statements are correct?

- a) From 2022-23 to 2023-24, the average calorie intake has decreased for both rural and urban India
- b) The average calorie consumption in urban India was higher than calorie consumption in rural India in 2011-12 and 2022-23
- c) The average calorie intake for both rural and urban India was the highest in the year 2011-12
- d) There are no two years with the same level of average calorie intake for rural India

Section 3: SOCIAL AWARENESS

31) With which of the following political leaders would you associate the slogan, Sampurna Kranti (total revolution)

- a) Lal Bahadur Sastri
- b) Jyoti Basu
- c) Jayaprakash Narayan
- d) Vinobha Bhave

32) Which of the following countries is not a member of BRICS:

- a) Egypt
- b) United Arab Emirates
- c) Ethiopia
- d) Sri Lanka

33) Which of the following Indian government-run service has been discontinued in India:

- a) Value payable post service
- b) Telegram service
- c) National Savings Certificate
- d) Railway Mail Service

34) Identify the state that does not have bicameral legislature, among the following:

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Karnataka

d) Sikkim

35) National Education Policy 2020 replaces the 10 + 2 structure for school education with which of the following:

- a) 2 + 5 + 5 + 3
- b) 5 + 3 + 3 + 4
- c) 3 + 3 + 4 + 5
- d) 5 + 5 + 3 + 2

36) The scheme of education called Nai Taleem is based on the ideas of:

- a) J Krishnamurti
- b) Rabindranath Tagore
- c) Savitribhai Phule
- d) M K Gandhi

37) The winner of the International Booker Prize for 2025 is:

- a) Banu Mushtaq for Heart Lamp
- b) Arundhati Roy for Mother Mary Comes to Me
- c) Amitav Ghosh for Wild Fictions
- d) Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni for Independence

38) The minimum support price (popularly known as MSP) for select crops in India are fixed based on the recommendations of:

- a) Food Corporation of India
- b) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
- c) National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation
- d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

39) The ongoing Special Intensive Revision (known as SIR) project in India refers to:

- a) Revision of the electoral rolls
- b) Revision of income tax slabs
- c) Revision of bank interest rates in the light of the global tariff war
- d) Revision of the collegium of judges in various courts

40) Whose autobiography is titled Long Walk to Freedom?

- a) Martin Luther King Jr.
- b) Aung San Suu Kyi
- c) Nelson Mandela
- d) Abdul Ghaffar Khan

Section 4 : DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

ECCE

Instructions

- **The first question is compulsory. Please answer one of the other two questions.**
- **The first question has 3 sub- parts which can be answered in 300-400 words in total. The second question can be answered in 300-400 words.**
- **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**

1. Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions below.

“Children best attain multilingual skills when a rich and natural environment of meaningful and purposeful use of languages is created around them. Young children are not best equipped to learn a language through formal teaching. This is an important distinction that can help curriculum developers, Teacher educators, and Teachers to design and provide appropriate early language learning experiences for young children in the Foundational Stage. Multilingualism is pervasive in India, and most children are exposed to more than one language from their early years. In our multilingual country and world, becoming multilingual early on also makes it easier to communicate across many communities over one’s lifetime” (NCF-FS 2022, p. 73)

- a. What does the passage say about multilingualism in India?
- b. How do children attain language proficiency?
- c. What should be integral to early language learning experiences for young children?

2. Early childhood educators collaborate closely with parents. Discuss ways to make home-school partnerships more effective.

OR

3. It is believed that play-based learning is only appropriate in preschool, and from grade 1, learning should be more formal using books and the blackboard. Do you agree? Explain your reasons.

MA DEVELOPMENT

In the context of increasing inequality in India, to what extent are government schemes that provide free goods and services to the poor necessary for promoting equitable development?

Or

Is social media a tool for empowerment or distraction for the youth?

MA EDUCATION LANGUAGE

Instructions:

Answer any two of the following questions in 300 to 400 words, each.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.

Q. 1: In a multilingual classroom, children often use their home language while trying to learn English. One teacher discourages this practice, believing it interferes with English learning, while another encourages it as a bridge to learning a new language. What is your opinion on this? Explain your position with examples from your experience of language learning.

Q. 2: In what ways learning grammar is helpful or not so helpful in acquiring an unfamiliar language? What do you think about teaching grammar to support language acquisition?

Q. 3: Do you believe that in a school with limited resources, where children have not yet learnt to read independently, keeping storybooks in the library is a waste of resources? Justify your views with supporting arguments.

Q. 4: A teacher introduces storytelling and local folklore in language lessons. Her students respond with enthusiasm and begin to tell the stories that they have heard at home. However, some parents complain to the principal, arguing that “no real language teaching” is taking place and that students are simply “passing time by telling old stories”.

How would you respond to the situation if you were the principal?

MA EDUCATION MATHS

Set 2

Instructions

There are two sections in this part. Each section is compulsory. Answer any one question from each of the sections.

Each response should be 300-400 words.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topic.

Section 1:

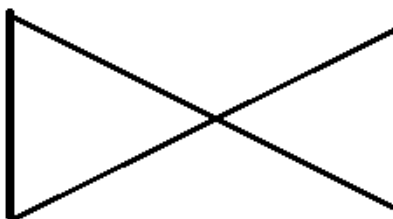
- A. Should mathematics be taught in school using real life examples? Explain your answer giving three examples.

OR

- B. What are the goals of teaching mathematics in elementary grades (Grades 1-8)? Is learning mathematics in school useful beyond serving as a tool in science and engineering?

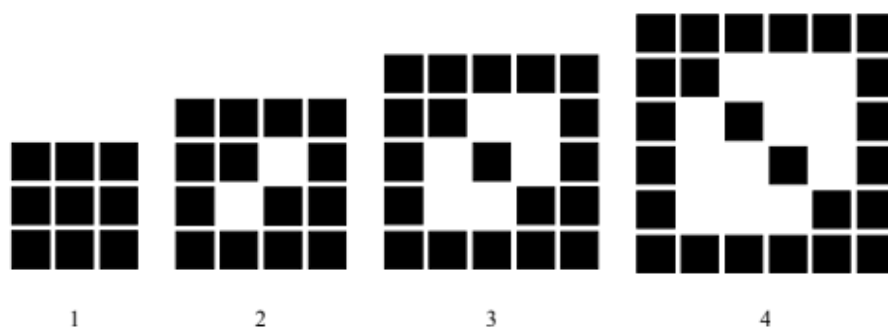
Section 2:

- A. Mozambique farmers mark rectangular areas of land using the following method: They take a bamboo stick whose length is the width of the land and take two ropes of equal length knotted at the midpoint and knot it to the two ends of the bamboo stick. When they place the bamboo stick on one edge of the land and stretch the rope tight (see figure below), the other two ends of the rope give the other two vertices of the rectangle. Does this method always produce the vertices of a rectangle? Explain your answer.



OR

B. Look at the following pattern of black tiles



Describe the 5th, 7th, 100th figure in this sequence. How many black tiles would the 100th figure contain? If you had 1000 black tiles, what would be the largest figure of the above pattern you could construct? Justify your answers.

MA EDUCATION SCIENCE

1. Explain the mechanism of 'organic evolution'? How is 'adaptation' related to 'organic evolution'?
2. A group of school students made an energy conservation model as part of a science exhibition competition. They made a small windmill to be attached onto the top of a car and wanted to use it for producing electricity while the car will be moving. This they argued will help in generating extra energy that can be used for running the car and thus will help in saving fuel. However, their teacher did not accept their project saying that their idea for the model does not comply with the law of conservation of energy. Do you agree or disagree with the teacher's decision? Give your reasons and justification by describing relevant scientific principles / phenomena.
3. Answer the following four questions on plant reproduction:
 - (i) A farmer wants to grow many plants of a particular variety of a Mango tree. Which mode of reproduction would you suggest?
 - (ii) There is a fully grown papaya tree that bears flowers but has never produced fruit. Upon observing its flowers, it was found that the tree produces only female flowers. What could be the reason for not bearing fruit?
 - (iii) We see Mango trees growing along a stream. What could be the most likely mode of dispersal of Mango seeds?

(iv) Describe the characteristics and modes of dispersal of fruits A and B given below.



A.

B.

4. Compare Rutherford's and Bohr's atomic models with explanations. What were the drawbacks of Rutherford's model? How did Bohr's model resolve these limitations?

MA EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructions:

- **There are four questions in this section. You are required to choose and answer any two of them.**
 - **Each response should be around 300-400 words.**
 - **Please answer the questions using ideas, concepts, theories or perspectives from either one or more social science disciplines like Geography, Sociology, Economics, History and Political Science as relevant.**
 - **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**
-
1. Technology can help solve all the problems in education. Comment on the statement in the context of India, using concepts from social sciences.
 2. Some people argue that the social sciences are 'useless' subjects and should be given less importance than the natural sciences. Discuss your views on this statement with examples.
 3. What are the different types of democracy? Give examples of each type.

4. Critically discuss how education has contributed to both the reproduction and transformation of social inequalities based on class in India. Please discuss using examples.
-

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Instructions

Choose **ANY ONE** from the questions given below. The length of the essay should not be less than 700 words, excluding the title, and any references (if provided). Make sure your essay has a clear structure and flows logically. Focus on expressing your ideas, thoughts, perspectives, and draw on your observations and experiences as relevant.

1. Research from several countries across the globe has found that every year spent in school or university may result in populations living longer compared to countries with fewer years of schooling.

Does formal education help in improving health and why? Give some examples to substantiate your arguments.

OR

2. Urban migrants face multiple health vulnerabilities due to factors such as poor housing, sanitation, pollution and lack of regular source of income among others. Discuss with some examples the physical and mental health challenges faced by this group.

OR

3. In 2025, the Union Health Ministry issued an advisory promoting awareness boards in workplaces to highlight risks of hidden fats and excess sugar in commonly consumed foods. The initiative aims to raise awareness and reduce obesity, which is a serious public health concern.

How effective do you think this initiative can be in addressing obesity? Discuss the potential benefits, impacts and strategies to strengthen the initiative.

Round 3

Section 1 – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

In thousands of garment factories in Tamil Nadu, women garment workers endure 8–10 hour shifts, racing to complete gruelling targets of as high as 1,000 pieces of clothing in a single day. The work takes a severe physical toll: Back pain, repetitive strain injuries, and skin conditions from chemical exposure. In the midst of these daily struggles, one enduring tradition catches the eye: Flowers adorn the hair of most women toiling on the factory floor. Jasmine strands delicately preserved from temple offerings, roses salvaged from fading bouquets, or blooms lovingly grown in small home gardens. For Ramani and others like her, growing flowers provides more than just adornment. "It's something of beauty I created, something I own and enjoy - unlike the clothes I make at the factory," she explains.

The wearing of flowers by garment workers is profoundly misunderstood. It has come under criticism as a sign of 'financial-illiteracy' - of frivolous high spending amongst low-waged women who can't manage their monthly expenses. But the stories of women workers in Tamil Nadu challenge these misconceptions.

Flowers serve as a subtle yet vital tool for communication and solidarity. The Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union (TTCU), a women-led textile workers union, has incorporated flowers into their organizing strategy, to address gender-based violence in garment factories. "When a woman who regularly wears flowers to the factory suddenly stops, we know to check on her," explained Muthumari, a union organizer. "It's often a silent signal that she's facing violence at home." This informal early warning system has become essential in communities where openly discussing domestic violence remains taboo.

For widows in rural Tamil Nadu, flowers hold an entirely different meaning. Traditionally forbidden from wearing flowers in their hair, widows are socially marked as 'dead,' denied basic forms of self-expression and participation in community life. The TTCU has consciously challenged this practice, turning their union spaces into sites of resistance. "When a widow comes to our office, we always offer her flowers," said Poongodi, a senior union leader. "It's our way of saying she has the right to beauty and choice too. You should see how their faces light up – for many, it's the first time since their husband's death that they've been explicitly invited to adorn themselves." The simple act of placing flowers in a widow's hair becomes a powerful declaration of her continued right to joy, beauty, and social inclusion.

– Shivakumar and Joseph (2024). *Factory flowers - beauty and survival in India's garment factories*. <https://tansyhoskins.org/factory-flowers-beauty-and-survival-in-indias-garment-factories/>

1) According to the passage, what is the nature of work for women workers in Tamil Nadu's garment factories?

- a) Work from home and flexible timings
- b) Informal work with no pay
- c) Long work hours and high production target per day
- d) Desk and administrative work

2) According to the passage, why are flowers important for factory workers like Ramani?

- a) They help deal with strong smells of chemicals
- b) They give a sense of ownership and control to women
- c) They distract workers from the daily toil and hardship
- d) They are a source of regular income for women

3) How do harsh working conditions affect garment workers?

- a) They get body ache and skin ailments
- b) They get mental health issues
- c) They become physically weaker
- d) Their eyesight gets weakened

4) When a factory worker stops wearing flowers, it is likely a sign of:

- a) A protest against poor work conditions
- b) A disinterest in garment factory work
- c) Rejecting gender norms and roles
- d) Her facing domestic violence

5) What does the Trade Union offering flowers to widows mean?

- a) They can join the garments factory
- b) Their right to happiness and inclusion
- c) Protection by the Trade Union
- d) Their acceptance by the husband's family

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

The Brahmaputra, one of the most sediment-laden rivers in the world, is home to a geographical phenomenon – a unique network of an estimated 2,300-plus islands that result from the vast

quantities of sand, silt and rock that the river carries along its course, down from the mountains and onto the plains.

These temporary islands, locally known as chars or saporis, are in a constant state of flux. Since most of these islands are impermanent, their ownership is unclear. They are also extremely fertile – thus, for generations, local communities have settled on these islands as they take shape, living in homes of bamboo and mud, establishing homesteads, raising families and eking out a living through farming and fishing.

When the floods come, people fend for themselves in relief camps, or in temporary shelters along the embankments criss-crossing the flood plains, and even on boats. Once the floods recede, they return to find, at times, that 'their' home island has shifted downstream, sometimes as much as a few kilometres, and that they have to start all over again. This process is cyclical; sometimes they have to go through this process a few times every year, depending on the number of floods and their ferocity. Stress is a constant companion.

These islands are home to nearly a tenth of Assam's population of 35 million, and to a diverse range of communities, including some who live in a national park. Also resident on these chars are many species of wildlife including elephant herds, wild buffalo and feral horses as well as migratory and local birds, while the endangered river dolphins are occasionally sighted in the river and its tributaries.

6) What natural phenomenon does the sediment-heavy Brahmaputra cause?

- a) Earthquakes
- b) Droughts
- c) Riverine islands
- d) Cyclones

7) According to the passage, why is the ownership of chars unclear?

- a) Because they are temporary
- b) Because owners have migrated
- c) Because land is distributed unevenly
- d) Because land disputes are common

8) What does the passage imply about life in the saporis?

- a) It is ethnically homogeneous
- b) It has multiple animal species
- c) It is low on human habitation
- d) It has high ethnic and species diversity

9) What does the passage imply about human habitation in the chars?

- a) Residents have migrated out of the region
- b) Residents have settled and cultivated the land
- c) Residents have been permanently displaced
- d) Residents have sold away these lands

10) According to the passage, why is the life of residents precarious in the char-saporis?

- a) Because they do not possess land documentation
- b) Because outside communities claim their land
- c) Because they are repeatedly displaced by floods
- d) Because they are migrants from another region

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

In April 2023 when India reached 1,425,775,850 people, it surpassed China's population to become the most populous country in the world. Couched behind the colossal numbers are several contradictory demographic trends that have taken root in different parts of the country.

The total fertility rate in India has declined from 3.4 children per woman in 1992-93 to 2.0 children per woman in 2019-21, i.e., below the population replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. The population in India will, however, continue to grow, mainly in the northern states of the country, driven by demographic momentum, a phenomenon caused by a large number of young adults in their childbearing years.

Compared to the north, the five southern states of India are economically more advanced and have been highly successful in slowing population growth by focusing on development and women's empowerment. Falling birth rates are causing increasing concern about population decline in other parts of the country. The total fertility rate in Andhra Pradesh has dropped to 1.5, which is well below the replacement level and similar to countries in the European Union. The government of Andhra Pradesh recently reversed a policy that prevented people with over two children from running for local government elections. This policy, in place for 30 years, aimed to control population growth by discouraging people from having more than two children.

Declining population is no longer confined to the economically developed southern or western India. Smaller states in the country are grappling with the effects of demographic transition, with varied implications for policymaking. The fertility rate in the north-eastern state of Sikkim has plunged to 1.1, with the state government going into overdrive, offering additional increments for employees with more than one child.

Alongside this phenomenon, India, like China, is rapidly aging, which is linked to declining fertility, decreasing mortality risks, and higher life expectancy in both countries. The elderly population, which is nearly ten percent of the total population, is expected to more than double

by 2050. India will be caught between prioritizing the youth and taking care of the elderly by providing quality healthcare and social protection.

– Sunita Kumar (2025) *The population paradox in India.*
<https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-population-paradox-in-india>

11) In the context of the passage, the phrase “replacement level” most likely refers to:

- a) The fertility rate needed to maintain a stable population size.
- b) The number of children required to replace deceased individuals.
- c) The fertility rate aligned with economic growth targets.
- d) The minimum birth rate mandated by government policy.

12) What was the primary purpose of the Andhra Pradesh policy that restricted local election candidacy to those with two or fewer children?

- a) To promote women’s empowerment in local governance.
- b) To address the aging population in the state.
- c) To align Andhra Pradesh’s fertility rates with northern states.
- d) To reduce population growth by discouraging larger families.

13) In the passage, the term “demographic momentum” most likely refers to:

- a) Economic growth driving population increases
- b) Continued population growth due to a large number of young adults in childbearing years
- c) Rapid aging of the population due to increased life expectancy
- d) Policy changes encouraging higher birth rates in northern states

14) The passage implies that the southern states’ success in slowing population growth is primarily attributed to:

- a) Economic advancement and women’s empowerment
- b) Strict enforcement of population control policies
- c) Increased mortality rates in the region
- d) Migration of young adults to northern states

15) What does the passage imply about the long-term policy challenges India faces due to its demographic trends?

- a) India must focus solely on reducing population growth in northern states.

- b) India can rely on demographic momentum to sustain economic growth.
- c) India should prioritize reversing women's empowerment to boost fertility rates.
- d) India needs to address both the needs of its youth and the growing elderly population.

Section 2: GENERAL AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

16) Diarrhoea shares the same relationship with Handwashing that Malaria shares with _____ [what can fill the blank or replace the question mark ('?')]

Diarrhoea : Handwashing :: Malaria : ?

- e) Face Mask
- f) Medicines
- g) Mosquito Net
- h) Regular Exercise

17) Read the following two statements:

- I. The government has recently fixed the fees for professional courses offered by the unaided institutions which are much lower than the fees charged last year.
- II. The parents of the aspiring students launched a severe agitation last year protesting against the high fees charged by the unaided institutions.

Given the above two statements, which of these options is most likely:

- a) Statement I is the cause and statement II is its effect
- b) Statement II is the cause and statement I is its effect
- c) Both statements I and II are independent
- d) Both the statements I and II are effects of some common cause

18) The following information is given about three ladies: Rani, Shanti and Saraswati residing in three different areas in Bengaluru: Yeshwantapura, Sarjapura and Whitefield. One of them is a teacher, one a TV newsreader and one an engineer.

- i. The teacher lives in Sarjapura.
- ii. Saraswati is not the engineer.
- iii. Shanti lives in Yeshwantpur
- iv. The engineer lives in Whitefield.

Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Saraswati is the teacher.

- b) Shanti is the engineer.
- c) Rani is the teacher.
- d) Saraswati is the news reader.

19) Read the following paragraph.

Fathima is twelve years old. For three years, she has been asking her parents for a dog. Her parents have told her that they believe a dog would not be happy in an apartment, but they have given her permission to have a bird. Fathima has not yet decided what kind of bird she would like to have.

Which of the following statements can be logically inferred from the above paragraph?

- a) Fathima's parents like birds more than they like dogs.
- b) Fathima does not like birds.
- c) Fathima and her parents would like to move.
- d) Fathima and her parents live in an apartment.

20) An old man had the following assets:

- i. 3 flats worth Rs.30 Lakh each
- ii. 1 farm worth Rs. 50 Lakh
- iii. Rs.70 Lakh as bank deposits.

He split his assets among his three sons: Ram, Shyam and Krishna so that each of them inherited the same value. Also, he didn't have to split his farm or flat among his sons, that is each flat and the farm had a single owner after splitting. Ram got the least amount of money as bank deposits and Krishna got the most amount of money as bank deposit. Who got the most number of flats?

- a) Ram
- b) Shyam
- c) Krishna
- d) All of them got the same number of flats

The following excerpt is from the section on parents' engagement with their children regarding education from 'The state of school education in rural India' survey report. Read carefully and answer questions 21 to 23 based on it.

From the survey, we observed that a majority of children (62.5%) are under the supervision of their mothers when it comes to their studies, while 49% are supervised by their fathers.

Additionally, over 26% of parents opt for private tutors to further enhance their child's education.

For children of parents who never went to school, supervision is often carried out by people other than their mother and father. For instance, 34.9% of these children study under the guidance of an elder sibling, 10.8% are supervised by Anganwadi workers, and 11.9% are taught by community teachers. Comparatively, 33.2% of these children receive supervision from their mothers, while 25.6% are supervised by their fathers.

Among the children whose parents had finished high school, 76% of them were supervised by their mothers, while 61% were supervised by their fathers.

21) What percentage of children whose parents never went to school are under the guidance of their mother?

- a) 76%
- b) 33.2%
- c) 62.5%
- d) 25.6%

22) Select the statement that is FALSE, given the above data.

- a) More than a quarter of the parents opt for a private tutor.
- b) About a third of the children whose parents never went to school are supervised by their mothers.
- c) More than three-quarters of the children surveyed are under the supervision of their mother.
- d) More than three-fifths of the children whose parents went to high school are supervised by their father.

23) Which of the following statements follow from the given data?

- a) Most of the children of parents who never went to school are supervised by Anganwadi workers.
- b) Most of the children whose parents are educated are under the supervision of private tutors.
- c) There are more mothers who have gone to school than fathers.
- d) More than double the number of educated fathers and mothers supervise their children's education compared to non-school educated parents.

The following table shows the details of selected automobiles from the 1970s. Answer the questions 24 to 26 based on this table.

Model name	Miles per gallon	Number of cylinders	Horsepower (hp)	Weight (in thousand pounds)
Mazda RX4	21	6	110	2.62
Mazda RX4 Wag	21	6	110	2.88
Datsun 710	23	4	93	2.32
Hornet 4 Drive	21	6	110	3.28
Hornet Sportabout	19	8	175	3.44
Valiant	18	6	105	3.46
Duster 360	14	8	245	3.57
Merc 240D	24	4	62	3.19
Merc 230	22	4	95	3.15

24) Which model under the 4-cylinder category has the highest horsepower?

- a) Merc 230
- b) Valiant
- c) Duster 360
- d) Datsun 710

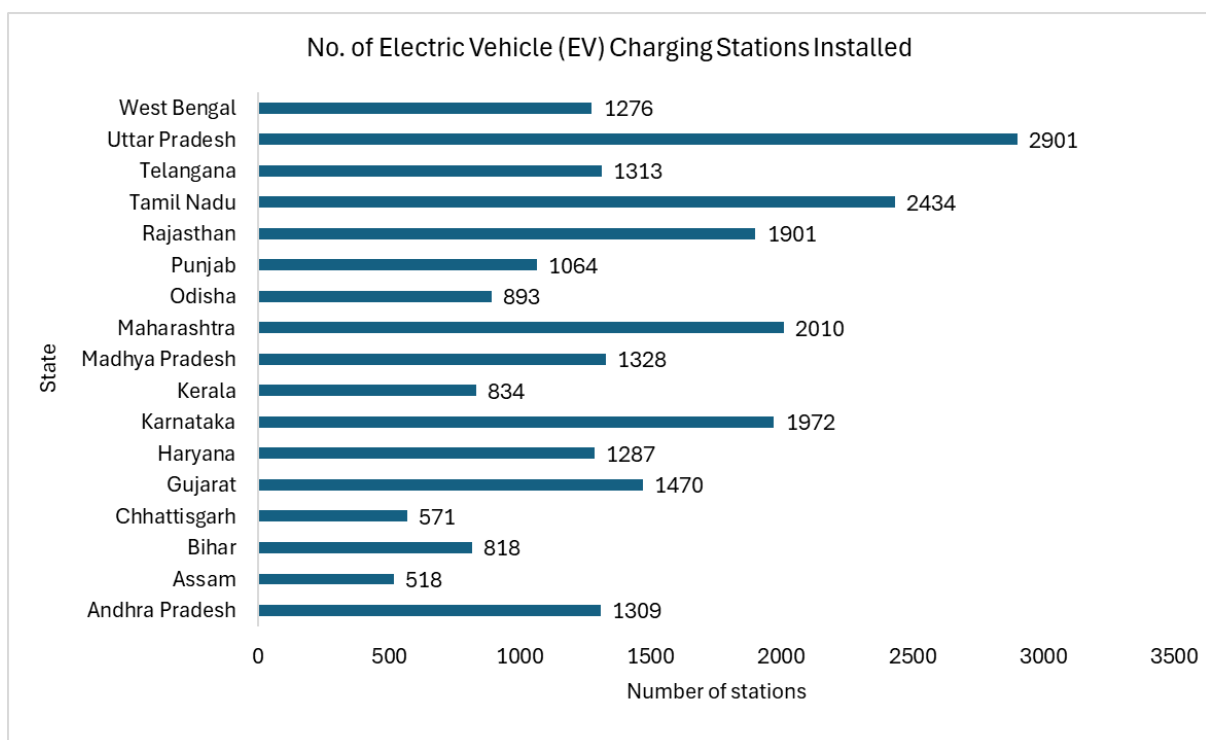
25) Which of the following statements is CORRECT?

- a) A model with higher horsepower is always heavier than model with lower horsepower
- b) The horsepower (hp) of the models increases with increasing number of cylinders
- c) The heaviest model is Valiant
- d) There are no models with less than 100 horsepower.

26) Consider that you have purchased the vehicle with the highest horsepower. How many gallons of fuel will you need to travel 70 miles?

- a) 10
- b) 1
- c) 5
- d) 20

The following graph shows the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations installed in selected states in India. Answer questions 27 to 30 based on the graph.



27) The state with the lowest number of charging stations is located in:

- a) South India
- b) Northeast India
- c) West India
- d) North India

28) The total number of charging stations is 23899. What percentage of charging stations are in Tamil Nadu?

- a) 30

- b) 50
- c) 10
- d) 40

29) By what percentage, the number of charging stations in Assam should be increased, to reach the level of Chhattisgarh?

- a) 10
- b) 50
- c) 5
- d) 30

30) Which of the following statement is FALSE:

- a) The difference in the number of charging stations in Madhya Pradesh and Haryana is greater than the difference in the number of charging stations in West Bengal and Telangana
- b) The number of charging station in Andhra Pradesh is closest to that of Telangana
- c) In terms of number of stations, Kerala and Bihar are next to each other.
- d) There are only two states with less than 1000 charging stations.

Section 3: SOCIAL AWARENESS

31) Keeladi (also written as Kheezadi), located near Madurai in Tamil Nadu, drew national attention recently:

- a) Because it received the highest amount of rainfall during the 2025 Monsoon season
- b) Because it has the largest concentration of millionaires in a village
- c) Because of the discoveries made during recent archaeological excavations at this site
- d) Because it has the highest number of postgraduates among all the villages in India

32) Who among the following directed Bharat Ek Khoj, based on Jawaharlal Nehru's The Discovery of India?

- a) Shyam Benegal
- b) Satyajit Ray
- c) Deepa Mehta
- d) Mrinal Sen

33) Globalization primarily influences society by:

- a) Isolating cultures
- b) Connecting people worldwide
- c) Restricting trade
- d) Encouraging local customs only

34) Who was the prominent leader associated with the Self-Respect Movement in South India?

- a) C. Rajagopalachari
- b) M.G. Ramachandran
- c) K. Kamaraj
- d) Periyar E.V. Ramasamy

35) M. S. Swaminathan was conferred with Bharat Ratna award, the highest civilian award, in 2024 for his work for:

- a) The white revolution
- b) The green revolution
- c) The agriculture revolution
- d) The science revolution

36) Which South Indian state is known for its early adoption of land reforms in 1957?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

37) The film 'The Namesake', directed by Mira Nair, explores the immigrant experience and is based on a novel by which author?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- c) Kiran Desai
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri

38) Besides India, which other country has a national anthem written by Rabindranath Tagore?

- a) Nepal

- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar

39) Who won the Booker Prize in 2008 for "The White Tiger"?

- a) Aravind Adiga
- b) Jeet Thayil
- c) Amitav Ghosh
- d) Vikram Seth

40) Which scheme was launched to provide pensionary benefits to workers in the unorganised sector?

- a) PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana
- b) Employees' Provident Fund Scheme
- c) National Pension Scheme
- d) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan

Section 4: DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

ECCE

Instructions

- **The first question is compulsory. Please answer one of the other two questions.**
- **The first question has 3 sub- parts which can be answered in 300-400 words in total. The second question can be answered in 300-400 words.**
- **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**

Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions below.

"Our brains shape and reshape themselves in ways that depend on what we use them for throughout our lives. Learning language is a nice example of how experiences contribute to each person's unique pattern of brain development. The ability to speak and to understand other's speech requires only the minimal opportunity to communicate that almost all children

experience. However, which language a child learns to speak depends on the language he experiences, and his brain will adapt to this specific language. When an infant is 3 months old, his brain can distinguish several hundred different spoken sounds, many more than are present in his native language. Over the next several months, however, his brain will organize itself more efficiently so that it only recognizes those spoken sounds that are part of the language that he regularly hears. For example, a one-year-old Japanese baby will not recognize that "la" is different from "ra," because the former sound is never used in his language. During early childhood, the brain retains the ability to re-learn sounds it has discarded, so young children typically learn new languages easily and without an accent” (Hawley, 2000)

- a. What shapes and reshapes our brains throughout life?
- b. What is required for a child to learn to speak and understand speech?
- c. How can the ideas in this paragraph guide language teaching and learning in early childhood care and education?

2. Young children these days are exposed to technology at a very early age. Discuss the benefits and risks of screen time/ screen use in early childhood.

OR

2. According to NEP 2020, the early years form the foundational stage of learning. Discuss the significance of this definition.

MA DEVELOPMENT

In the context of increasing inequality in India, to what extent are government schemes that provide free goods and services to the poor, necessary for promoting equitable development?

Or

Is social media a tool for empowerment or distraction for the youth?

MA EDUCATION LANGUAGE

Instructions:

Answer any two of the following questions in 300 to 400 words, each.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.

Q. 1: Write about and reflect on a word, phrase, or proverb from your native language that you believe cannot be accurately translated into English. Elaborate on its meaning and significance and explain why the translation cannot fully capture the connotation of the word.

Q. 2: Language is the easiest subject to teach. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Provide reasons to support or oppose the statement.

Q. 3: Have you read any article on Language Education in a newspaper, magazine, or online portal that you would like to recommend to your friend? Pursue your friend to read the article by highlighting its key themes and relevance.

Q. 4: In a lower primary classroom, the teacher often allows children to talk freely in small groups while working on activities. Some colleagues feel that the classroom becomes “too noisy” and that children are not learning language systematically.

As a language educator, how would you respond to this debate?

MA EDUCATION MATHS

Instructions

There are two sections in this part. Each section is compulsory. Answer any one question from each of the sections.

Each response should be 300-400 words.

Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topic.

Section 1:

A. Why do students fail to perform in mathematics? Elaborate with examples.

OR

B. What are the reasons for students making errors while learning mathematics? Elaborate with examples.

Section 2:

A. A square has a perimeter (or boundary length) of 32cm. It is divided into two equal triangular halves by folding along the diagonal. What is the area and perimeter of the

resulting triangle? If we keep folding the triangle into equal halves, in how many steps will we get a triangle whose area is 1 cm^2 ?

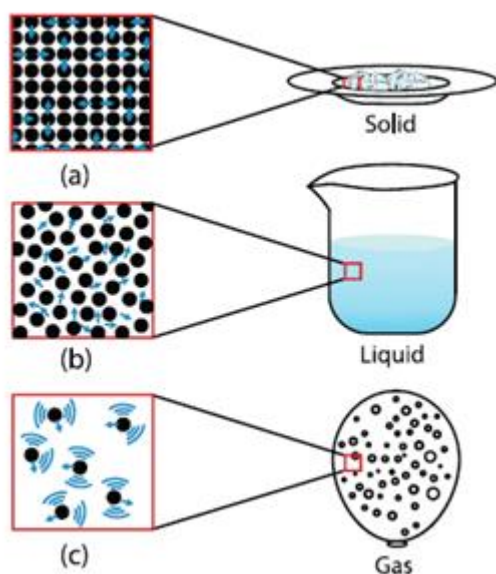
OR

- B. Arrange the following fractions in ascending order (Elaborate with reasoning. Avoid converting the fraction into a decimal for your reasoning)

$\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{5}$, $\frac{6}{7}$, $\frac{4}{11}$, $\frac{2}{3}$

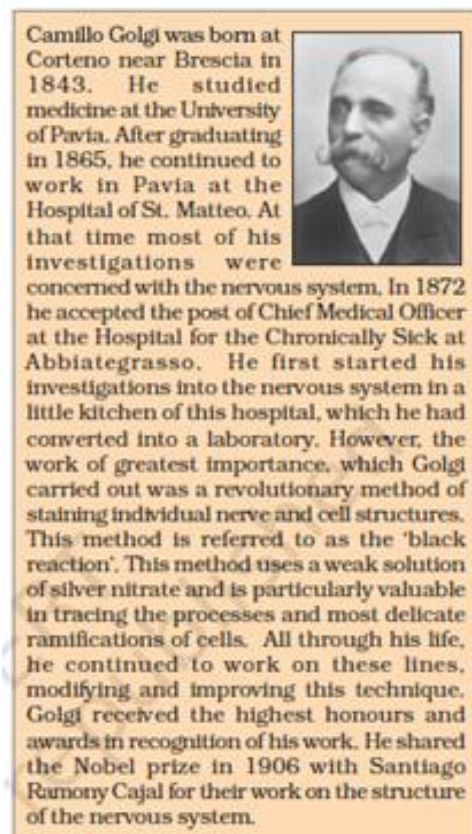
MA EDUACTION SCIENCE

1. In his book, 'How We Think', John Dewey describes an observation he made one day while washing dishes. He took out a glass tumbler from a hot soap solution and put it upside down on a plate. He noticed that soap bubbles emerged from under the tumblers' rims, grew for a while, came to a standstill, and finally receded inside the tumbler. Why did this happen? Why do soap bubbles emerge and grow when the tumbler was put upside down? Why did soap bubbles recede back inside the tumbler? Give reasoning for your answers.
2. Take a careful look at the textbook diagram below illustrating the particle theory of matter and answer the four sub-questions given below:



- (i) What is meant by 'particle'? What are some common characteristics of these particles? How are they different in solids, liquids and gases?

- (ii) Give examples of particles in solid, liquid and gaseous states besides / other than water.
- (iii) What are some challenges that children encounter in understanding this theory?
- (iv) Are there any erroneous conceptions that children may develop while attempting to understand this figure?
3. A short biography of the scientist Camillo Golgi is given below taken from a Grade 9 Science textbook.



- (i) What do you understand about science practices from this account?
- (ii) How else do you think this information can be represented in a science textbook to help children understand the nature of science? How could children be made to understand his work better?
4. Explain the similarities and differences between mitosis and meiosis.
-

MA EDUCATION SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructions:

- **There are four questions in this section. You are required to choose and answer any two of them.**
- **Each response should be around 300-400 words.**
- **Please answer the questions using ideas, concepts, theories or perspectives from either one or more social science disciplines like Geography, Sociology, Economics, History and Political Science as relevant.**
- **Please ensure that your answers are well-structured, clearly written, and demonstrate critical engagement with the topics.**

1. Instead of sending their twelve-year-old boy to school, a poor agricultural family preferred that he work on their farm during harvesting season. What would any of the social sciences have to say on the family's decision?
 2. It is said that access to technology has improved after the COVID-19 pandemic, which in turn has facilitated wider access to education. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your answer, using concepts from social sciences.
 3. You may have watched many web series and movies based on historical events. Do they represent history accurately? Please discuss how historians think about this.
 4. How does climate change influence the natural hazards? Explain with the help of at least one example from geography.
-

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The government of India launched the 'Tobacco Free Youth Campaign' in 2025 with a commitment to create tobacco-free educational institutions. The campaign aims to enforce strict rules against tobacco use within the vicinity of educational institutions, educate children and youth against tobacco initiation, and promote a culture of health and wellness across educational institutions.

Discuss the importance of such initiatives in preventing tobacco use among children and youth, the likely impact of this intervention, and what additional measures are needed to sustain these efforts.

OR

Discuss how sporadic rainfall, severe water scarcity, and agricultural failure impact health in vulnerable populations. What are the potential short-term and long-term health consequences, and what strategies can be implemented to mitigate these effects?

OR

The low-wage migrant construction workers are a vulnerable population facing multiple challenges related to their living and working conditions. Discuss the key health challenges faced by this group. What steps should be taken to ensure that this group receives required health related support?

Round 4

Section 1 – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Every summer morning, Kantaben Kishen Parmar, a 45-year-old vegetable seller in the Indian city of Ahmedabad, settles onto a patch of ground the size of a large rug, sandwiched between the warming asphalt and a simmering sky, to sell peppers and tomatoes. She doesn't get back home until 10 p.m. Over the decades, summers have gotten longer and hotter — average temperatures can hover around 105 degrees Fahrenheit, or 40 Celsius, between March and June — but Ms. Parmar's hours have remained the same. The toll on her health is growing. Three years ago, she collapsed during an especially scorching April day and was rushed to a hospital, where she was treated for severe dehydration. Ms. Parmar, who is diabetic, has suffered from Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), dizzy spells, and heavy bleeding during her period, conditions that medical experts often attribute to heat stress. "It's hot from above, it's hot from the pavement. Where are we poor folks going to go?" Ms. Parmar said. "We have no option but to sit here."

More than a billion Indians face heat waves every year. Hundreds of millions of them work in the informal sector, toiling outdoors or doing piecework in a stifling factory, and are especially at risk as intense bouts of scorching weather become more frequent and higher temperatures stick around for longer. Scientists and public health experts say: Prolonged exposure to hot weather, especially when combined with humidity, can hinder the ability of people to lead healthy, safe and productive lives. The physiological stress can lead to chronic illnesses and increase people's chances of dying.

More than 90 percent of working women in India are in the informal sector. Some can lose as much as 60 percent of their income during the brutal summer months because their working hours are reduced by almost half, or they have to abandon their work. A day's lost wages could mean one less meal — or no meal — that day, with cascading consequences. A worker might have to borrow money at high rates, or be unable to pay her rent, or they can't afford to pay electricity bills, so when you really need fans for cooling down, your electricity supply is gone.

Ms. Parmar, the vegetable vendor, also said her monthly income falls, to 10,000 rupees from 15,000 rupees, during summer. Asphalt road surface temperatures can reach 140 degrees or more in extreme heat. “Both me and my vegetables suffer,” she said. Like many outdoor women workers, she has gotten UTIs, which occur when dehydration along with undergarments and synthetic clothing that traps heat, allow bacteria to thrive. Women in both rural and urban settings tend to hold their urine or drink less water when they are working because they lose less work time by minimizing bathroom breaks. Also, public facilities are not always accessible. Ms. Parmar said the toilet closest to her is about a half mile away, so she doesn’t go often.

- *Excerpt* from *Anupreeta Das* 2025
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/16/world/asia/heat-stress-women-india.html>

- 1) The phrase “it’s hot from above, it’s hot from the pavement” suggests:
 - a) Poor quality of roads
 - b) Multiple sources of heat exposure
 - c) Climate change denial
 - d) Indoor working conditions

- 2) The passage links Urinary Tract Infections among women workers to:
 - a) Heat, dehydration, and limited access to sanitation
 - b) Poor diet alone
 - c) Lack of exercise
 - d) Genetic factors

- 3) The passage highlights that public facilities are:
 - a) Easily accessible
 - b) Overcrowded but available
 - c) Often distant or inaccessible
 - d) Free and well-maintained

- 4) The broader implication of the passage is that:
 - a) Climate change only affects urban areas
 - b) Heat exposure is both a health and economic issue
 - c) Informal workers earn more in summer
 - d) Women are less affected than men

5) The statement “a day’s lost wages could mean one less meal” highlights:

- a) Poor food quality
- b) Seasonal employment trends
- c) Agricultural decline
- d) Immediate economic vulnerability

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

My big brother was five years older than me but only three grades ahead. He’d begun his studies at the same age I had but he didn’t like the idea of moving hastily in an important matter like education. He wanted to lay a firm foundation for that great edifice, so he took two years to do one year’s work; sometimes he even took three. If the foundation weren’t well-made, how could the edifice endure? I was the younger, he the elder—I was nine, he was fourteen. He had full right by seniority to supervise and instruct me. And I was expected to accept every order of his as law. By nature, he was very studious. He was always sitting with a book open. And perhaps to rest his brain he would sometimes draw pictures of birds, dogs and cats in the margin of his notebook. Occasionally he would write a name, a word or a sentence ten or twenty times...

I wasn’t really very keen about studying. To pick up a book and sit with it for an hour was a tremendous effort. As soon as I found a chance I’d leave the hostel and go to the field and play marbles or fly paper kites or sometimes just meet a chum—what could be more fun? Sometimes we’d climb on to the courtyard walls and jump down or straddle the gate and ride it back and forth enjoying it as though it were an automobile. But as soon as I came back into the room and saw my brother’s scowling face, I was petrified. His first question would be, ‘Where were you?’ Always this question, always asked in the same tone and the only answer I had was silence. I don’t know why I couldn’t manage to say that I’d just been outside playing. My silence was an acknowledgement of guilt and my brother’s only remedy for this was to greet me with indignant words.

‘If you study English this way, you’ll be studying your whole life and you won’t get one word right! Studying English is no laughing matter that anyone who wants to can learn. Otherwise, everybody and his cousin would be regular experts in English. You’ve got to wear out your eyes morning and night and use every ounce of energy, then maybe you’ll master the subject. And even then, it’s just to say you have a smattering of it. Even great scholars can’t write proper English, to say nothing of being able to speak it.

(Premchand. “My Big Brother.” In The World of Premchand: Selected Stories of Premchand, translated by David Rubin, 158–59. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1969.)

6) Where do the two brothers mentioned in the passage stay during this period of their lives?

- a) With their parents in the family home

- b) At a relative's house
- c) At a hostel
- d) At a rented room in town

7) The brother says, "great scholars can't write proper English." What is the underlying purpose of this statement in his argument?

- To show that English is so difficult that not taking it seriously will be detrimental
- To discourage the narrator from ever attempting to learn English
- To acknowledge his own limitations honestly before the narrator
- To underline the limitations of 'great scholars'

8) The younger brother mentions that his brother would write a word or sentence "ten or twenty times." What does this habit tell us about the brother's approach to learning?

- a) He wants to improve his handwriting by practising regularly
- b) He finds writing more enjoyable than reading
- c) He is trying to fill pages to impress his teachers
- d) He believes repetition is the key to mastering a subject

9) The younger brother describes riding the gate as though it were "an automobile." What does this tell us about the way children experience ordinary things?

- a) Children are careless and treat valuable things as toys
- b) Children use their imagination to turn simple things into exciting adventures
- c) Children prefer outdoor games to any form of indoor activity
- d) Children are easily satisfied and do not need expensive things to be happy

10) The elder brother uses the word "foundation" to explain why he takes extra time to complete his studies. What does this word choice reveal about how he thinks of education?

- a) He believes education is a slow and painful process that drains a student completely
- b) He thinks that without education, a person cannot earn money or build a house
- c) He feels that teachers do not give students enough time to learn at their own pace
- d) He sees education as a grand structure that must be built carefully from the ground up

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

I come from a conventional, middle-class Nigerian family. My father was a professor. My mother was an administrator. And so, we had, as was the norm, live-in domestic help, who would often come from nearby rural villages. So, the year I turned eight, we got a new house

boy. His name was Fide. The only thing my mother told us about him was that his family was very poor. My mother sent yams and rice, and our old clothes, to his family. And when I didn't finish my dinner, my mother would say, "Finish your food! Don't you know? People like Fide's family have nothing." So, I felt enormous pity for Fide's family.

Then one Saturday, we went to his village to visit, and his mother showed us a beautifully patterned basket made of dyed raffia that his brother had made. I was startled. It had not occurred to me that anybody in his family could actually make something. All I had heard about them was how poor they were, so that it had become impossible for me to see them as anything else but poor. Their poverty was my single story of them.

Years later, I thought about this when I left Nigeria to go to university in the United States. I was 19. My American roommate was shocked by me. She asked where I had learned to speak English so well, and was confused when I said that Nigeria happened to have English as its official language. She asked if she could listen to what she called my "tribal music," and was consequently very disappointed when I produced my tape of Mariah Carey. She assumed that I did not know how to use a stove.

What struck me was this: She had felt sorry for me even before she saw me. Her default position toward me, as an African, was a kind of patronizing, well-meaning pity. My roommate had a single story of Africa: a single story of catastrophe. In this single story, there was no possibility of Africans being similar to her in any way, no possibility of feelings more complex than pity, no possibility of a connection as human equals.

So, after I had spent some years in the U.S. as an African, I began to understand my roommate's response to me. If I had not grown up in Nigeria, and if all I knew about Africa were from popular images, I too would think that Africa was a place of beautiful landscapes, beautiful animals, and incomprehensible people, fighting senseless wars, dying of poverty and AIDS, unable to speak for themselves and waiting to be saved by a kind, white foreigner. I would see Africans in the same way that I, as a child, had seen Fide's family.

- *Excerpted from: The danger of a single story, Chimamanda Adichie*

11) Why does the author feel pity for Fide, the house help?

- a) Fide came from a remote location in Nigeria
- b) Fide could not go to school
- c) Author's mother said that Fide was very poor
- d) Fide had started working as a child

12) In the statement, "Her default position toward me, as an African, was a kind of patronizing, well-meaning pity", what does patronising refer to?

- a) to treat somebody in a way that shows that you think you are more intelligent and experienced than they are

- b) the quality of not thinking that you are better than other people
- c) to be a regular customer of a shop or a restaurant
- d) behaves selfishly and thinks they are more important than other people

13) Which of the following is a correct inference from this statement: “She asked if she could listen to what she called my “tribal music,” and was consequently very disappointed when I produced my tape of Mariah Carey.

- a) The roommate was interested only in Nigerian tribal music
- b) The roommate did not know who Mariah Carey was
- c) The roommate had limited exposure to Nigerian music culture
- d) The author preferred western music over Nigerian music

14) According to the author, why do Americans view Africa as underdeveloped, conflict-ridden and filled with incomprehensible people?

- a) They do not get news about Africa
- b) They are familiar with a single story of Africa
- c) They have not visited Africa enough
- d) They do not understand African languages

15) Which of the following statements about the passage is NOT true?

- a) The author had pre-conceived stereotypes about Fide’s family
- b) The author’s roommate did not understand African cultures well
- c) Americans see Africa as a place with beautiful animals and landscapes
- d) Africans are seen as empowered people who can speak for themselves

Section 2: GENERAL AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

16) Two kids Karim and Khasim were trying to compare their heights to find out who is taller. They discovered the following two facts:

FACT 1: Karim is taller than Rama.

FACT 2: Rama is shorter than Khasim.

Which of the following is true?

- a) Fact 1 is sufficient to determine who is tallest.
- b) Fact 2 is sufficient to determine who is tallest.
- c) Fact 1 and 2 are together sufficient to determine who is tallest.

- d) Fact 1 and 2 together are not sufficient to determine who is tallest.

17) Consider the following statement and conclusions:

STATEMENT: The population of X city is growing at the rate of 10% annually.

CONCLUSION 1: The economy of X city is growing at the rate of 5%.

CONCLUSION 2: X city is going to face a housing crisis in 5 years' time.

Which of the two conclusions logically follows from the statement?

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

18) Five colleagues – Amar, Bharathi, Chitra, Durai, and Ekta – are working in an office. Each one takes a different day (Monday to Friday) for reporting.

- Durai reports immediately after Amar.
- Bharathi reports before Chitra but after Amar.
- Amar does not report on Monday.

Which day does Ekta report?

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday
- d) Friday

19) In a newly discovered island a group of scientists made the following observations:

OBSERVATION 1: Some residents have blue eyes.

OBSERVATION 2: All residents with blue eyes have red hair.

Which of the following statements are true about the residents on the island?

STATEMENT 1: If a resident has red hair, then they have blue eyes.

STATEMENT 2: If a resident does not have red hair, then they don't have blue eyes.

- a) Only statement 1
- b) Only statement 2
- c) Neither statement 1 nor statement 2

- d) Both statement 1 and statement 2

20) Employees are not expected to complain about boring tasks. A bored employee may continue to produce good results, but that can also be because the tasks are repetitive, and the outcomes are expected. After all, it is the results that matter to organizations.

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

- a) Good performance makes organizations overlook their employees' state of mind.
- b) A bored employee is a bad performer.
- c) An employee who gets good results never complains of boredom.
- d) Organisations need to address boredom to get good results.

[21-23] Please read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.

The CMS Education survey, part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), focused specifically on household expenditure for currently enrolled students in school education. Some major findings are as follows: The average per student expenditure made by households on school education during the current academic year in government schools was estimated at ₹2,863, while it was significantly higher (₹25,002) in non-government schools. Across all types of schools, the highest average expenditure per student during the current academic year was on course fees (₹7,111), followed by textbooks and stationery (₹2,002) at the all-India level. The urban households pay significantly more across all categories. Notably, the average expenditure on course fees in urban areas was estimated at ₹15,143, whereas it was estimated at ₹3,979 in rural areas. Average annual household expenditure on private coaching per student in urban areas (₹3,988) was higher than that in rural areas (₹1,793).

21) The average per student expenditure in non-government schools exceeds per student expenditure in government schools by:

- a) 40,000
- b) 22,139
- c) 2,139
- d) 20,000

22) The average per student expenditure on course fees in rural areas is what percentage of average per student expenditure on course fees in urban India?

- a) 26%
- b) 50%
- c) 10%
- d) 5%

23) Calculate the total private coaching expenditure for four students in urban areas and two students in rural areas.

- a) 38,000
- b) 4,500
- c) 5,781
- d) 19,538

[24-26] The following table shows the revenue and surplus of the forest department between 1939-40 and 1942-43. Please read the table carefully and answer the question based on this table.

Yearly average for the period	Revenue (Rs. million)	Surplus (Rs. Million)
1939-40	32.0	7.5
1940-41	37.1	13.3
1941-42	46.2	19.4
1942-43	65.0	26.7

24) If the cost for a year can be calculated as (Revenue - Surplus), identify the year with the lowest cost for the forest department.

- a) 1939-40
- b) 1940-41
- c) 1941-42
- d) 1942-43

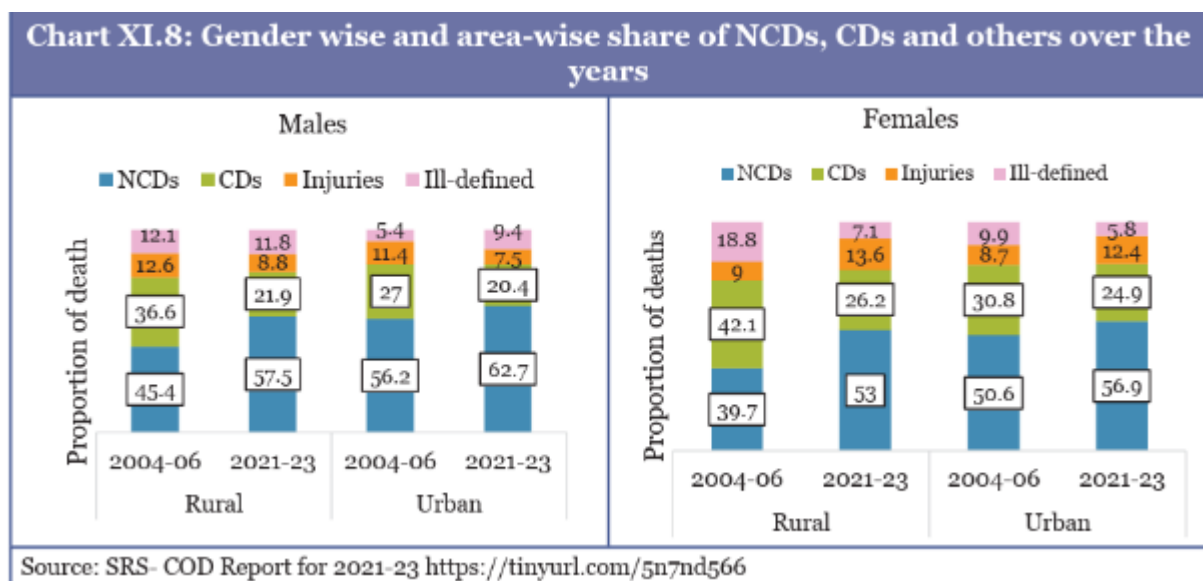
25) Calculate the percentage increase (rounded-off to the next integer) in the revenue of the forest department from 1941-42 to 1942-43.

- a) 4 percent
- b) 10 percent
- c) 41 percent
- d) 100 percent

26) Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- Both the revenue and surplus of the forest department increased consistently between 1939-40 to 1942-43.
- In terms of absolute value, the increase in revenue was maximum between 1941-42 to 1942-43.
- The lowest amount of revenue was recorded in the year 1939-40.
- In the year 1939-40, the surplus amount was more than one-fourth of revenue.

[27-30] The following graph gives the share of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), Communicable Diseases (CDs) and others in the deaths reported in India. Study this graph carefully and answer the question.



[Source: Economic Survey of India 2025-26, Chapter 11, pp 446]

27) The graph gives share of NCDs, CDs and others in the deaths reported in India across all the following parameters EXCEPT:

- Gender (Male and Female)
- Residence (Rural and Urban)
- Caste (SC/ST/OBC and Others)
- Period (2004-06 and 2021-23)

28) The largest proportions of reported deaths, across all parameters, can be attributed to which of the following cause:

- Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Communicable Diseases (CDs)
- Injuries
- Ill-defined

29) The proportion of deaths has decreased over time, across all parameters, for which of the following cause:

- a) Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- b) Communicable Diseases (CDs)
- c) Injuries
- d) Ill-defined

30) The proportion of deaths due to Injuries has:

- a) Increased over time among Rural Males
- b) Increased over time among Urban Males
- c) Increased over time among Rural Females
- d) Decreased over time among Urban Females

Section 4: SOCIAL AWARENESS

31) The passing away of Harish Rana in March 2026 was discussed widely because:

- a) It was a case of medical negligence
- b) It was a case of the first but failed attempt at brain transplant in India
- c) It was the first case where the Supreme Court permitted passive euthanasia
- d) Harish Rana was the first Indian to die during the war between Iran and US-Israel coalition

32) In a recent directive of February 2026, the Supreme Court of India instructed NCERT to remove a chapter from its Class 8 Social Science textbook because the chapter contained:

- a) A discussion on corruption in the Indian judiciary
- b) A discussion on the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque
- c) A defence of the declaration of Emergency in India
- d) A critique of the demonetization measures declared by the government

33) 2025 Gen Z protests refers to the uprising of youngsters against corruption in which country:

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Syria
- d) Nepal

34) Articles on Wikipedia are made available to users free of cost under:

- a) Creative Commons Attribution License
- b) Respective National Copyright Laws in different countries
- c) UNESCO Charter on Universal Education
- d) United Nations' initiative on adult education

35) At India's 71st National Film Awards, 2025, which of the following films won the award for the best feature film?

- a) Sam Bahadur
- b) Sirf Ek Banda Kafi Hai
- c) Laapataa Ladies
- d) 12th Fail

36) The Gulf of Mannar is a bay located between:

- a) Sundarbans and Bangladesh
- b) Southern India and Sri Lanka
- c) Japan and South Korea
- d) Gujarat and the Diu Island

37) The primary objective of the Jal Jeevan Mission is:

- a) To clean rivers
- b) To promote rainwater harvesting
- c) To provide piped drinking water to households
- d) To expand irrigation facilities

38) The "One Nation, One Ration Card" scheme ensures:

- a) Free ration for all citizens
- b) Portability of ration benefits across states
- c) Subsidized ration only in rural areas
- d) Digital ration cards for urban families

39) What is the main purpose of the PM-KISAN scheme?

- a) Direct income support to farmers
- b) Provide crop insurance

- c) Subsidized fertilizers
- d) Free irrigation facilities

40) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established to deal with:

- a) Industrial disputes
- b) Urban development projects
- c) Agricultural reforms
- d) Environmental protection and conservation

Section 4: DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

ECCE

Instructions

Question (Q1) is compulsory. It has 2 parts and each part can be answered in approximately 200 words.

Q1. Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions below.

“Children are naturally curious and need opportunities to explore, experiment, manipulate, create, and learn about the world around them. Children start exploring their environment through their senses by scanning their environment, touching, holding, and handling whatever they see, listening and responding to sounds, music and rhythm, and getting excited by unusual noises. Children’s thinking evolves as they construct an understanding of people, objects and real-life situations through first-hand experiences. Children bring their own ideas, interests, and beliefs based on their own experiences and contexts as well as their own abilities.

When teachers and families provide opportunities to children to explore the world around them, experiment and discover, compare, ask questions, make close observations, think and talk about their observations and predictions, they are being helped to satisfy their curiosities

and make more discoveries. Sustaining children's natural curiosity to explore the world through first-hand experiences at home and in the school lays the foundation for learning.” ((NCF FS 2022, Section 1.4.3, pp 43)

Q1a: What does the above paragraph say about ways in which children learn from their environment?

Q1b: Based on ideas given in this paragraph on how children learn, what do you think should be the teachers' role in Early Childhood Education (ECE) classrooms?

Choose any ONE of the two questions below. This question can be answered in 300-400 words.

Q2. What are your views on using technology in ECE? Give two benefits and two disadvantages each.

OR

Q3. According to the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational stage 2022, the primary medium of interaction in ECE should be the child's home language /mother tongue. Do you agree with this? Give reasons to support your answer.

MA DEVELOPMENT

- i) Has the widespread availability of audio-visual content on the internet adversely affected young people's reading habits?

Or

- ii) Is graduate unemployment in India primarily driven by a lack of job opportunities or by skill mismatch?
-

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Instructions

Choose **ANY ONE** from the questions given below. The length of the essay should not be less than 700 words, excluding the title, and any references (if provided). Make sure your essay has a clear structure and flows logically. Focus on expressing your ideas, thoughts, perspectives, and draw on your observations and experiences as relevant.

Q1. In New Delhi, extreme heat waves in 2024 caused 1,204 excess deaths, with 68% occurring in informal settlements lacking cooling access. In 2023, air pollution contributed to 28,000 premature deaths in Delhi, with residents of informal settlements facing 2.3 times higher exposure.

Does extreme heat and air pollution affect the health of urban poor differently? Discuss your position with suitable examples.

OR

Q2. Migrant workers constitute a crucial backbone of India's economy, yet they continue to face various disadvantages in areas such as health, education, and living conditions. What are some of the health challenges faced by interstate migrant workers, and what can be done to address their healthcare needs?

OR

Q3. The elderly constitute about 8% of the Indian population and are expected to increase in the coming years. They are a very vulnerable population with complex health challenges. Discuss some of the health challenges among this group.

