

UG Question Paper_2026_ R1_English

Part A: Reading Comprehension

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

It's impossible to say for certain when the internet began, mainly because nobody can agree on what, precisely, the internet is. (This is only partly a philosophical question: it is also a matter of egos, since several of the people who made key contributions are anxious to claim the credit.) But 29 October 1969 has a strong claim for being, as Leonard Kleinrock puts it today, "the day the infant internet uttered its first words". At 10.30 pm, as Kleinrock's fellow professors and students crowded around, a computer was connected to the IMP or "interface message processor", which made contact with a second IMP, attached to a second computer. Several hundred miles away at the Stanford Research Institute, an undergraduate named Charley Kline tapped out a message on the network they were calling the Arpanet: LOGIN.

It's interesting to compare how much has changed in computing and the internet since 1969. Nothing has quite the power to make people in their 30s, 40s or 50s feel very old indeed as reflecting upon the growth of the internet and the world wide web. Twelve years after Charley Kline's first message on the Arpanet, there were still only 213 computers on the network; but 14 years after that, 16 million people were online, and email was beginning to change the world; the first really usable web browser wasn't launched until 1993, but by 1995 we had Amazon, by 1998 Google, and by 2001, Wikipedia, at which point there were 513 million people online. Today the figure is more like 1.7 billion.

Source: The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2009/oct/23/internet-40-history-arpanet>

According to the passage, what was the early name used for the network that later became the internet?

- a) The World Wide Web
- b) The Arpanet
- c) The Interface Message Processor
- d) The Stanford Research Network

The primary purpose of the passage is to —

- a) Explain how the internet began and highlight how dramatically it has grown since 1969.
- b) Argue that the early pioneers of the internet have not received enough credit for their work.
- c) Describe the technical process by which the first internet connection was made.
- d) Compare the internet's growth to that of other modern technologies.

Which statement best supports the claim that the internet expanded at a very rapid pace?

- a) By 1995, major websites such as Amazon and Google had already appeared.
- b) Only 213 computers were connected to the Arpanet twelve years after its first message.
- c) In just over three decades, the number of users grew from a few hundred computers to hundreds of millions.
- d) The first usable web browser was not launched until 1993.

What do the statistics cited in the passage mainly illustrate about the development of the internet?

- a) The internet's expansion from a handful of connected computers to billions of users within a few decades.
- b) The steady and gradual pace of technological progress since the 1960s.
- c) The rise of web platforms like Amazon, Google, and Wikipedia.
- d) The limited reach of the internet during its first thirty years.

Based on the passage, what is the most likely reason that the author quotes Leonard Kleinrock describing 29 October 1969 as “the day the infant internet uttered its first words”?

- a) To argue that the first successful communication between two computers, in 1969, marked the real coming of the internet.
- b) To highlight that the internet was created in 1969 as the result of a Stanford project designed to improve communication security.
- c) To show that the internet in 1969 was like an infant compared to the mature and complex “adult” internet we see today.
- d) To say that the internet existed before 1969, but it had no real identity since it was ‘silent’.

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

Until about a hundred years ago in India, Ashoka was merely one of the many kings mentioned in the Mauryan dynastic list included in the Puranas. Elsewhere in the Buddhist tradition he was referred to as a chakravartin/cakkavatti, a universal monarch, but this tradition had become extinct in India after the decline of Buddhism. However, in 1837, James Prinsep deciphered an inscription written in the earliest Indian script since the Harappan, brahmi. There were many inscriptions in which the King referred to himself as Devanampiya Piyadassi (the beloved of the gods, Piyadassi). The name did not tally with any mentioned in the dynastic lists, although it was mentioned in the Buddhist chronicles of Sri Lanka. Slowly the clues were put together but the final confirmation came in 1915, with the discovery of yet another version of the edicts in which the King calls himself Devanampiya Ashoka.

The edicts of Ashoka, located as inscriptions in various parts of his empire, acquaint us not only with the personality of the King but also with the events of his reign and above all his policies as a ruler. As statements of his personal concerns they are remarkable documents,

vividly capturing the ambience of his time. This allows glimpses of something other than the conventional limitations of official documents. The edicts do in fact ‘speak’ of his concerns, both as a human being and a statesman.

Source: Romila Thapar, “The Emergence of Empire: Mauryan India,” in *The Book of Indian Kings: Stories and Essays* (New Delhi: Aleph, 2020), pp. 1-2.

According to the passage, which of the following sources have historians used to study Ashoka and the Mauryan period?

- a) The Puranas, Arthashastra, and temple inscriptions
- b) The Puranas, Buddhist traditions, and royal inscriptions
- c) Coins, Buddhist traditions, and royal inscriptions
- d) The Puranas, Foreign Accounts, and Buddhist traditions

In the sentence, “In 1837, James Prinsep deciphered an inscription written in the earliest Indian script since the Harappan, Brahmi,” what does the phrase “deciphered an inscription” mean?

- a) Misunderstood a message
- b) Discovered an ancient location
- c) Worked out the meaning of something
- d) Copied something

According to the passage, how does Ashoka’s image change after his edicts were deciphered?

- a) From one of many Mauryan kings in Indian history to a powerful emperor with effective policies.
- b) From a devout Buddhist teacher to a pragmatic and politically minded emperor.
- c) From a heroic conqueror celebrated in legend to a historical figure described in factual detail.
- d) From a ruler known only through Prinsep’s accounts to a king whose own words survive.

Which of the following statements best describes the difference in the main focus of the two paragraphs in the passage?

- a) The first discusses Ashoka’s moral principles, while the second lists the regions where his edicts were found.
- b) The first explains how Ashoka was identified through inscriptions, while the second describes what those inscriptions reveal about him as a ruler and person.
- c) The first recounts the decline of Buddhism, while the second highlights the effectiveness of Ashoka’s rule.
- d) The first describes Prinsep’s method of discovering information about Ashoka, while the second provides details of Ashoka’s policies as a ruler.

Based on the passage, why was identifying “Devanampiya Piyadassi” as Ashoka historically significant?

- a) Because it allowed historians to understand Ashoka’s personality, as well as the full extent of his achievements.
 - b) Because it indicated that Ashoka’s authority extended beyond India to regions such as Sri Lanka.
 - c) Because it suggested that the development of Buddhism was closely tied to the Mauryan Empire.
 - d) Because it revealed that the Brahmi script had evolved from earlier writing systems such as the Harappan.
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The sentence given below contains an error. Choose the appropriate answer from the options given that corrects it.

The children is playing in the park.

- a) The childs is playing in the park.
- b) The children are playing in the park.
- c) The childs are playing in the park.
- d) The childrens is playing in the park.

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

Ten years ago, Mariam _____ to the town of Ramanagara to look for endangered vultures.

- a) is travelling
- b) had travelled
- c) would be travelling
- d) has travelled

From the options given, select the word or phrase that best completes the sentence given below.

When someone turned on the fan in the middle of a hair-cut, the barber shop was suddenly filled with flying _____.

- a) bunches of hair
- b) strand of hair
- c) hairs
- d) clutch of hair

The underlined word here must be replaced to form a correct sentence. Select the word to replace it.

While part of the reasons for frequent flooding in Indian cities is the changing rainfall patterns, another key factor is poor drainage.

- a) reasoning
- b) reason
- c) rationale
- d) reasonings

A paragraph with blanks is given below. Choose the option that contains the words that are best to fill these blanks, in the correct order.

Yesterday, I went to the market to **(1)** _____ some vegetables. I had almost reached my **(2)** _____ when I realised I had forgotten my wallet. But since I had my phone, I carried on. I reached the **(3)** _____ store, and selected what I needed. It was only then that I realised I had forgotten to charge my phone, and that its battery had just run out.

- a) (1) purchase (2) destination (3) grocery
- b) (1) purloin (2) objective (3) convenience
- c) (1) gather (2) location (3) butcher's
- d) (1) buy (2) place (3) farmer's

Select the word that best fits both the meaning and tone of the sentence.

The researcher's findings were _____ and provided a new framework for the field.

- a) significant
- b) problematic
- c) basic
- d) hesitant

Fill in the blank with the phrase that best completes the sentence.

I tried reading the book you recommended, but I was unable to finish it as it was _____.

- a) uninteresting but short
- b) philosophical and funny
- c) long and complex
- d) economically unviable

Select the best set of words to fill in the blanks in order and complete this paragraph.

The school's new sustainability program encourages students to (1) _____ waste and (2) _____ creative ways to reuse materials. By involving both teachers and parents, the initiative has (3) _____ awareness across the community.

- a) (1) reduce (2) develop (3) raised
- b) (1) discourage (2) make (3) maintained
- c) (1) review (2) identify (3) discovered
- d) (1) segregate (2) grow (3) sustained

Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the sentence below.

Making anti-snake-venom more widely available has long been the primary focus of most government efforts to tackle the problem of snakebites.

- a) The problem of snakebites can be solved by making anti-snake-venom more widely available.
- b) Anti-snake-venom is limited in supply and can be increased by the government.
- c) Government efforts to tackle the problem of snakebites have focused on wider availability of anti-snake-venom.
- d) The government is making all possible efforts to tackle the problem of snakebites.

The sentences given below, when put in the correct order, form a logical and grammatically correct paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Choose the best order of the sentences from among the given choices.

- A. This intricate network was not left to chance but was carefully managed by a specialized community known as the Neeruganti.
- B. Their responsibilities extended beyond water regulation to the physical upkeep of the lakes, including desilting and maintaining the feeder channels.
- C. The foundation of this system was a series of interconnected, cascading lakes that captured and stored rainwater.
- D. Bengaluru was once renowned for its sophisticated and sustainable water management system.

- a) D, C, A, B
- b) A, D, B, C
- c) B, C, A, D
- d) C, D, A, B

Part B: Quantitative Reasoning

Out of 25 students in a class, 15 are boys. What percentage of students are girls?

- a) 20%
- b) 30%
- c) 40%
- d) 50%

The fraction $\frac{1}{6}$ is equivalent to which of the following fraction

- a) $\frac{2}{6}$
- b) $\frac{3}{10}$
- c) $\frac{1}{12}$
- d) $\frac{2}{12}$

I have 9 pens and 3 pencils. The ratio of pencils to pens is:

- a) 1:3
- b) 3:9
- c) 1:2
- d) 1:4

Which group of fractions is correctly ordered from smallest to largest?

- a) $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$
- b) $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{4}{5}$, $\frac{3}{4}$
- c) $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$
- d) $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{4}{5}$

Which group of decimals is correctly ordered from largest to smallest?

- a) 0.7, 0.65, 0.4, 0.5
- b) 0.85, 0.70, 0.55, 0.40
- c) 0.12, 0.35, 0.25, 0.10
- d) 0.60, 0.62, 0.64, 0.58

The cost of rice is Rs. 48 per kg. What is the cost of $\frac{3}{4}$ kg of rice?

- a) Rs.30
- b) Rs.36
- c) Rs.24
- d) Rs.40

The doctor says each child should drink at least 400 ml of milk daily. Which of the following is equivalent to 400 ml?

- a) 0.40 litre
- b) 0.04 litre
- c) 0.10 litre
- d) 0.08 litre

I scored 12 out of 20. My friend scored 30 out of 50. Who scored a higher percentage?

- a) I scored higher
- b) My friend scored higher
- c) Both scored the same percentage
- d) None

Currently 1 Indian rupee is equal to roughly 1.5 Thai baht (Baht is the currency of Thailand). With 12 rupees, how many toys costing 3 baht each can I buy?

- a) 4
- b) 6
- c) 5
- d) 3

Ali sells 9 kg of mangoes for Rs.360. The cost price was Rs.27 per kg. What is the profit per kg?

- a) Rs.5
- b) Rs.13
- c) Rs.10
- d) Rs.8

“Not all birds can fly” implies that:

- a) No birds can fly
- b) All things that can fly are birds
- c) Some birds cannot fly
- d) Some birds can fly

In a certain country, 70% of citizens have a smartphone, 60% have a laptop, and 50% have a tablet. Among those who own a smartphone, 80% also own a laptop, and among those who own a laptop, 70% also own a tablet. Which of the following statements **must be true**?

- a) Some citizens of the country have all three devices

- b) Every citizen of the country has all three devices
- c) More than 30% of the country's citizens own none of the three types of devices
- d) Less than 50% of the country's citizens own two or more devices

The heights of 3 persons is given as A, B and C. A is taller than B, but B is shorter than C. Which of the following is true?

- a) $A > B > C$
- b) $A > C > B$
- c) $A > B$ and $C > B$
- d) $C > B$ and $B > A$

If A is necessary for B, it means that it is impossible for B to be true if A is not true. If A is sufficient for B, it means that A being true guarantees that B is true. Keeping this in mind - A professor tells you that "If your attendance is below 75%, then you will fail the course". Do they mean.

- a) Having attendance below 75% is a necessary condition for failing the course.
- b) Having attendance below 75% is a sufficient condition for failing the course.
- c) Having attendance below 75% is a necessary and sufficient condition to fail the course.
- d) Having attendance above 75% is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition to fail the course.

In a book shop, there are two types of bookshelves: wooden and metal. Only wooden bookshelves have textbooks. Some books in the shop are bestsellers. All bestsellers are kept on metal shelves.

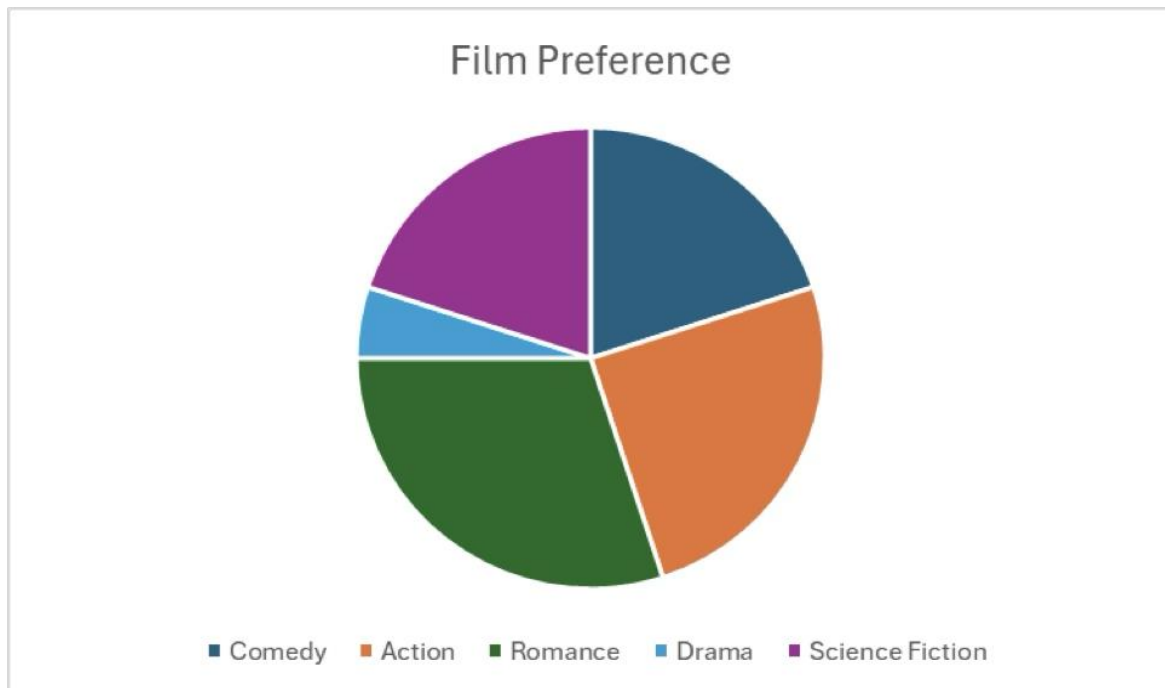
Based only on the above information, which of the following statements must be true?

- a) Some books on wooden shelves are best sellers.
- b) If a book is kept on a metal shelf, then it is a best seller.
- c) No best seller is a textbook.
- d) Some textbooks are kept on metal shelves.

I have three plants whose heights are 1 foot, 2 feet, 3 feet respectively. Now I got one more plant of height 2 feet. What is the average height of my plants?

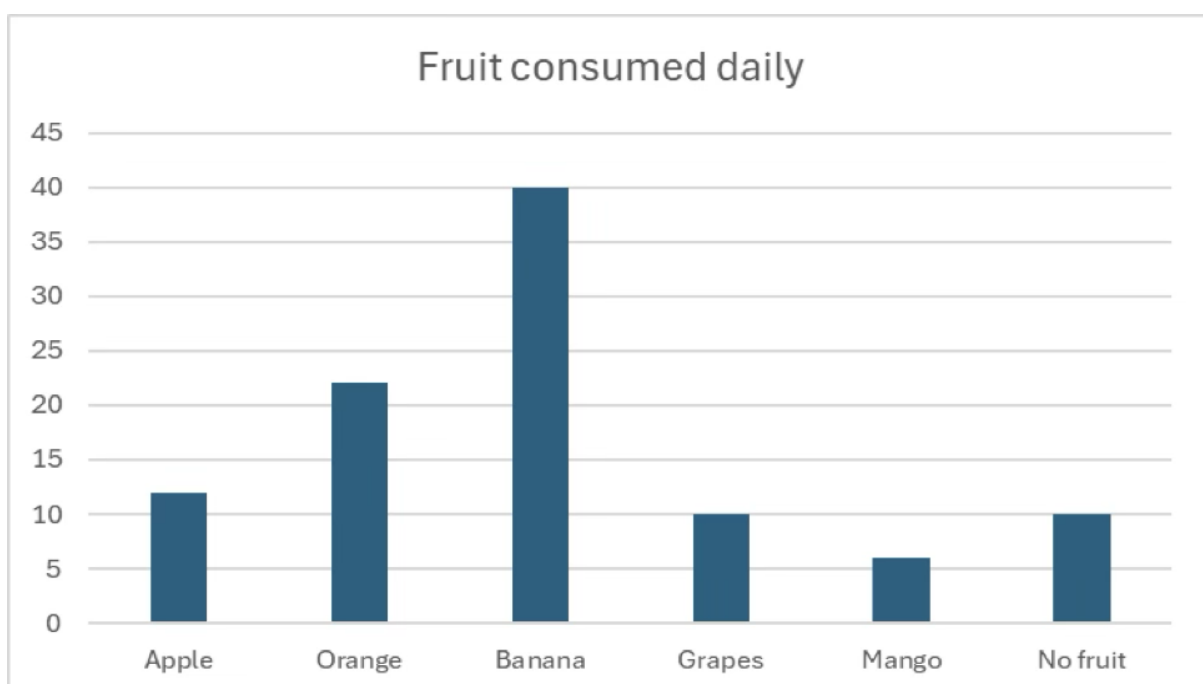
- a) 1 foot
- b) 2 feet
- c) 3 feet
- d) 2.5 feet

See the chart given below. It shows the share of votes for movie choice among 20 students. We are given that the most popular type had 30% of the votes. Which is that category?



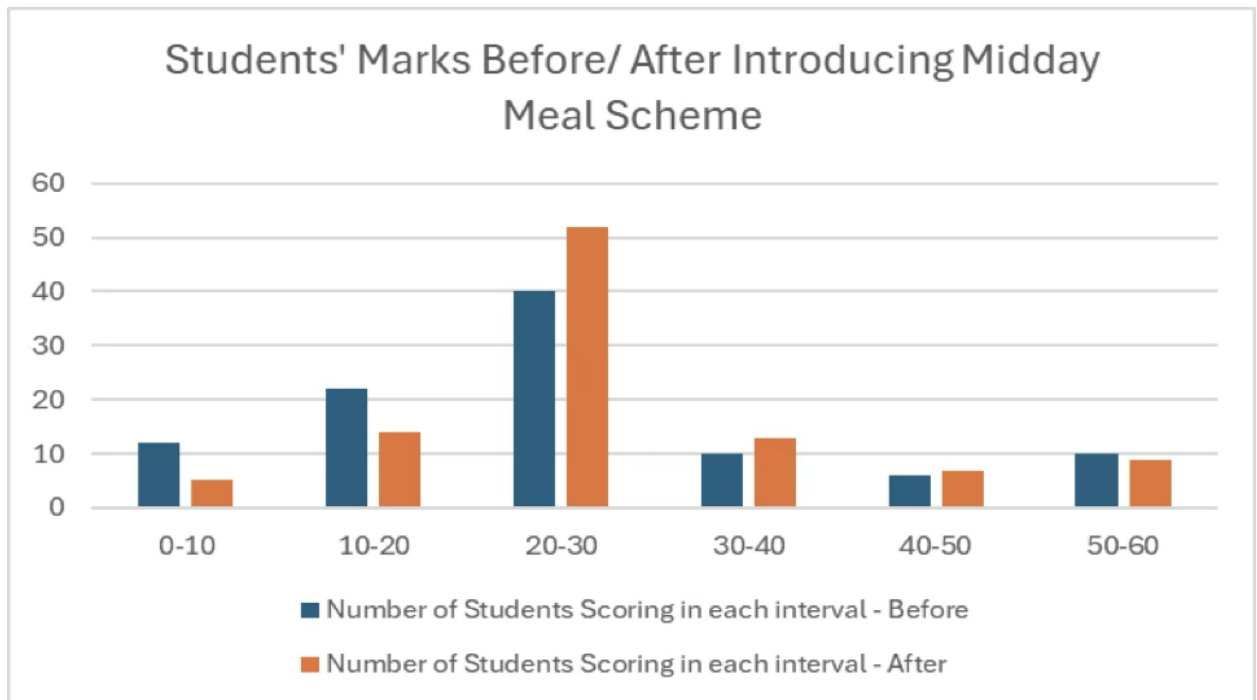
- a) Romance
- b) Drama
- c) Action
- d) Comedy

100 students were asked which fruit they eat daily and their answers are shown in the bar chart below. Which is the most commonly consumed fruit?



- a) Banana
- b) Apple
- c) Orange
- d) Grapes

The Midday Meal scheme was introduced in schools to improve students' health and ability to learn better. Below chart shows some data about students' marks before and after introducing midday meal. In which group did most of the improvement in marks take place?



- a) 0-10 marks
- b) 10-20 marks
- c) 20-30 marks
- d) 30-40 marks

Find the median of the 4 values: 10, 20, 20, 30.

- a) 20
- b) 10
- c) 20.5
- d) 22

Part C: Domain Social Science (For Economics, Social Science, PPE and Psychology students)

Read the paragraph below and answer the following questions.

Cities in India are expanding rapidly, but secure jobs have not grown at the same pace. Instead, informal work has become the main way people earn. Informal workers often lack contracts, health insurance, or pensions. They build houses, deliver food, and clean homes, yet their wages are low and uncertain. Homelessness and crowded slums show how little social protection exists. At the same time, these workers are resourceful: they form networks, share money, and support one another. Informality is not a temporary stage but a permanent feature of the economy, created by policies that favour growth over redistribution.

Adapted from: *Zaheer Baber, "Making a Living in Urban India: A Photo Essay," The India Forum, 2021*

Which statement best expresses the main idea of the passage?

- a) Informal work is a temporary step before better jobs.
- b) Informality is a permanent and widespread part of India's economy.
- c) The growth of slums in Indian cities
- d) Informal workers are fully protected by the state.

Which of the following situations best illustrates the idea of informal work described in the passage?

- a) A food delivery worker paid per order with no other compensation or benefits
- b) An unemployed youth
- c) A corporate employee with a fixed salary and pension.
- d) A government school teacher with a permanent post.

Which viewpoint is most similar to the author's?

- a) Informal work is caused mainly by workers' personal choices.
- b) Informal jobs are disappearing as cities modernise.
- c) Only rural workers experience informal jobs.
- d) Informal work exists everywhere and reflects deeper inequalities.

A special kind of automatic encoding takes place when an unexpected event or episode in a person's life has strong emotional associations, such as fear, horror, or joy. Memories of highly emotional events can often seem vivid and detailed, as if the person's mind took a "flash

picture” of the moment in time. These kinds of memories are called flash bulb memories. Explain which of these is a flash bulb memory:

- a) Remembering steps in solving a math question
- b) Memorising the names of presidents for a history test
- c) Remembering where you were and what you were doing when you heard about Covid-19 pandemic lockdown
- d) Recalling the grocery list that you need to get

Operant conditioning means that learning happens when behaviour is followed by a reward or punishment. Which of the following is an example of operant conditioning?

- a) A child cleans their room to get a chocolate.
- b) A child cleans their room and gets nothing after that.
- c) A child cleans their room because s/he wants to clean the room.
- d) A child does not clean the room.

A researcher is interested in the impact of anxiety on performance. In order to manipulate anxiety, they have some subjects eat plain chips while others eat masala flavoured chips. The most obvious problem with this experiment is a lack of:

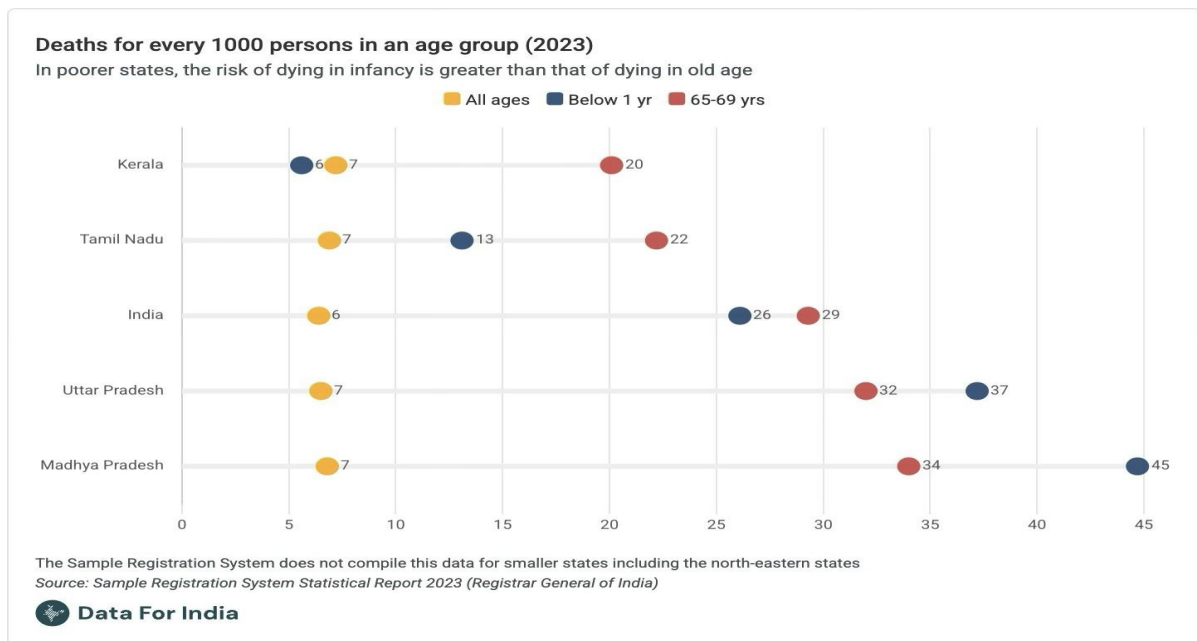
- a) Construct validity: the extent to which a measurement tool or method accurately assesses the concept
- b) Empirical validity: the degree to which a concept, theory, or measurement is supported by real-world, observed evidence
- c) Internal validity: the extent to which the findings are not due to other causes or factors.
- d) External validity: the extent to which a study's results can be generalized to other people, settings, and times.

A researcher wants to find out if sleep affects how well students remember new information. He conducted an experiment where he divided students into two groups: the students in the first group slept for 8 hours before the test, and the students in the second group slept for only 4 hours before the test. The next morning, both groups take the same memory test, and their scores are compared.

What is the main thing being measured or observed in this experiment?

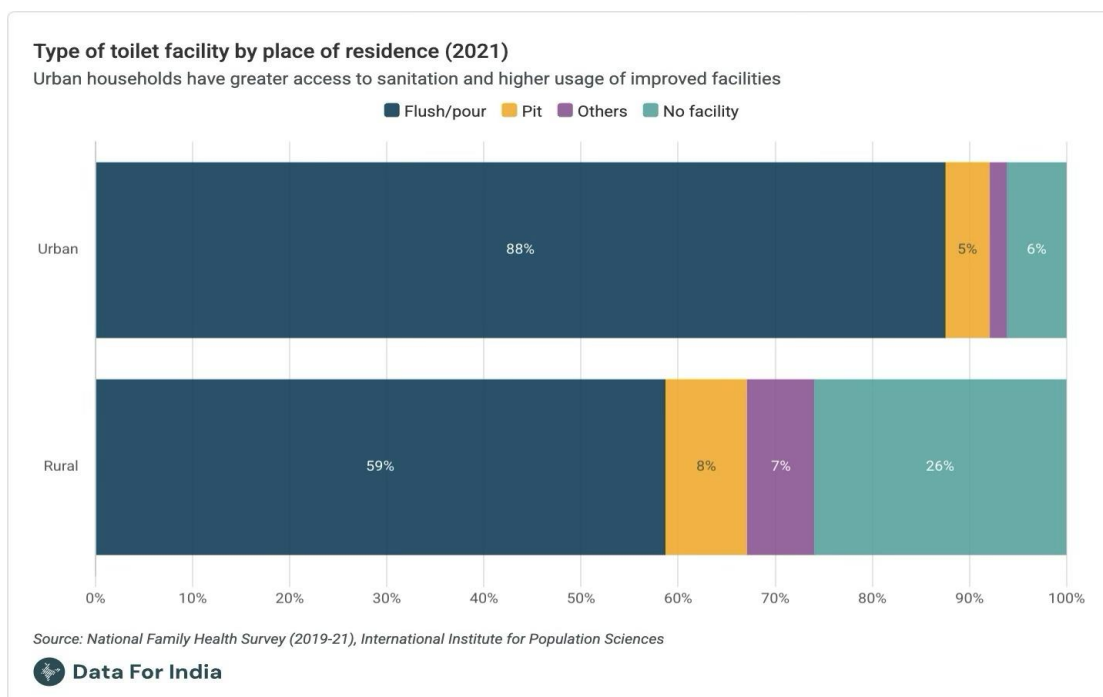
- a) The number of students in each group
- b) The number of hours of sleep
- c) The memory test score
- d) The time of day the test is taken

The graph gives the mortality rates per 1000 persons for selected states and for India for the year 2023, for three age groups. Which state has the lowest infant mortality rate?



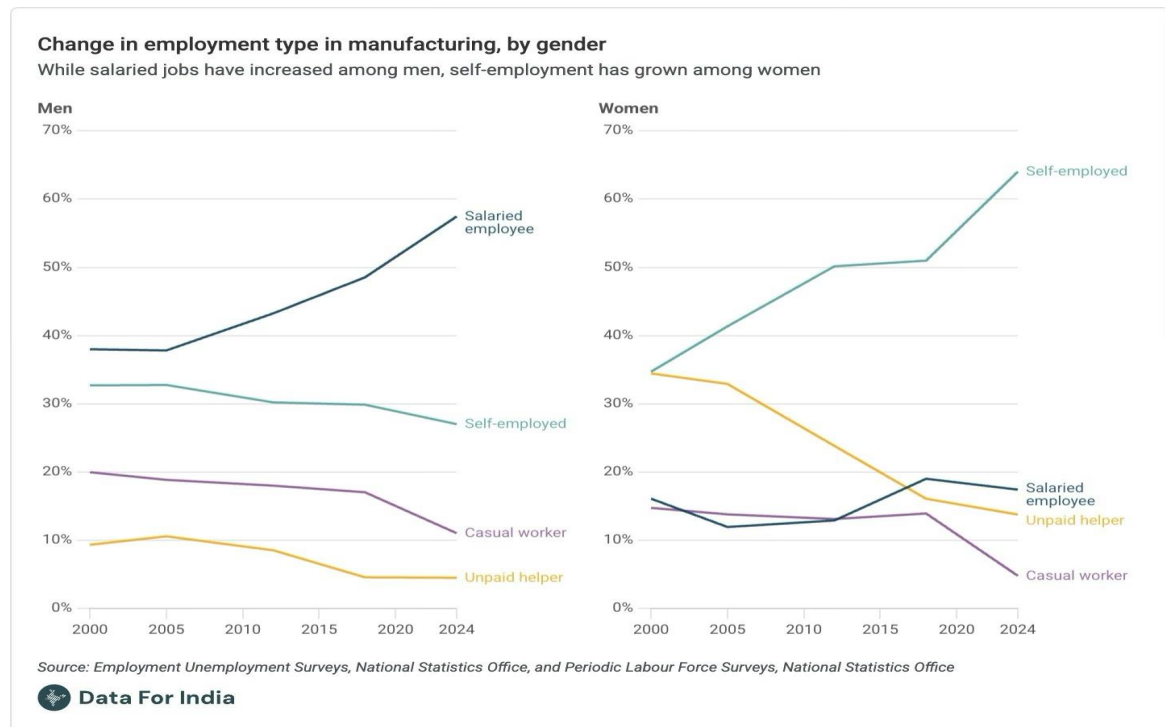
- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The following graph presents the type of toilets by place of residence for India in 2021. Which of the following statements is true?



- Urban areas have higher access to sanitation facilities.
- Urban areas have higher access to sanitation and higher usage of improved facilities.
- Rural areas have no access to sanitation facilities.
- Rural areas use more of flush/pour sanitation facilities relative to urban areas.

The charts show the changing shares of different types of employment among the total number of men and women working in the manufacturing sector in India. Based on the charts, which of the following statements is true?



- The share of salaried employees among men in manufacturing has started to rise from 2015
- The share of self-employment among men in manufacturing is greater than among women for all time periods
- There has been a decline in the share of casual workers among men and women in manufacturing recent years
- The share of men working as unpaid helpers in manufacturing has been rising in the past 20 years

Domain- Humanities (For English, History, and Media and Communications Studies candidates)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Amid the fields pervaded by the smell of vegetation, the well appeared suddenly like the gaping mouth of the land. The well had neither proper walls nor a regular shape. It looked open and

lonely, with wounds in the form of pit holes all over. There was a foot-worn track going down that resembled a series of steps. The pipe from the motor was half-drowned in the water and quite still. Sunlight passed through coconut leaves into the water to reveal the sand at the bottom. It was a well whose very appearance would make anyone's legs itch to jump in. The children were arguing and fighting over which of them should jump in first. Only the beginning was important. It was enough to hear the splash, followed by the sloshing of water. The frozen silence of the well had to be broken first. After that, the madness would infect everyone. The difficulty was in getting started, without fear that the well was waiting to claim the first one who jumped in. Undressed by now, the children continued their bickering. Even as the children's attention was focused on fighting among themselves, he dived neatly into the well, like a ripe coconut detaching itself from a bunch and dropping to the ground. Immediately the children jumped in, one by one, from each corner of the well.

Source: *The Goat Thief*, Perumal Murugan, 2017, pp. 4-5, Juggernaut

What is the effect of comparing the well to a gaping mouth?

- a) The well seems to be a pleasant and happy place
- b) The well seems to be hungry and desperate
- c) The well seems to be well-maintained
- d) The well seems to be full of fish

Which of these words best describes the location where this passage is set?

- a) A city
- b) Rural
- c) Small town
- d) Wilderness

Which word is closest in meaning to the opposite of "bickering" as used in the passage?

- a) quarrelling
- b) agreeing
- c) arguing
- d) antagonistic

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Kyaukme, Myanmar—Ten days after it was recaptured by Myanmar's military government, the town of Kyaukme stands eerily silent. Schools have reopened but the town's once-busy market is mostly empty. Vendors at some stalls closed them at the site of visiting journalists, visibly nervous.

The once-thriving town in Myanmar's Shan State is in shambles, an Associated Press journalist confirmed on Friday in a rare visit to the war-torn area allowed by the country's military government.

The army allowed an AP photographer to join a trip supervised by pro-military Myanmar media, the only representative of foreign media who was permitted to do so. The military doesn't allow free press and bars journalists from entering conflict zones independently.

The journalists saw the charred wreckage of official buildings, such as the courthouse, police station and government housing. Much of the area around the town's hospital was destroyed, with its operations temporarily shifted to a nearby Chinese temple. At least one of the town's fire engines was burnt out.

Civilian houses seemed to be mostly unscathed, except those damaged official buildings, but most of the town's original population of 46,000 had fled.

The ethnic militia that previously controlled the town accused the army of causing damage with air strikes and heavy weapons, while the government soldiers who took over the town said the militia destroyed structures as it retreated.

Because of its strategic location on a highway connecting central Myanmar to China, Kyaukme has been much fought over. After 115 kilometers northeast of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, it has changed hands twice since the army in 2021 ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, setting off the current civil war between the military government and an alliance of militias representing ethnic minorities and pro-democracy activists.

A motorbike taxi driver said he believed residents would be unwilling to return until the army recaptures more nearby towns.

"People are unwilling to live near the frontline," said the driver.

How did the Associated Press reporter get access to cover the situation in Kyaukme?

- a) He told the Myanmar military that he would not reveal any negative details.
- b) Human rights activists insisted that foreign press expose all of the infrastructure damage.
- c) The Chinese government exerted pressure on the Myanmar military to bar American journalists.
- d) The military government of Myanmar invited him to join local reporters who comply with censorship.

What does the author imply about the local vendors?

- a) They are worried that the journalists will buy all of their wares.
- b) They are concerned that journalists will spread bad news about their town.
- c) They are afraid they will get into trouble with the military if they speak freely with journalists.
- d) They are fearful that local people will starve due to a military blockade.

How would you categorize this story?

- a) News report
- b) Editorial
- c) Press release
- d) Infrastructure update

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

For the sake of simplicity, we will begin with the conventional answer to this question. Historians name the various sources they have used to carry out their research by providing a bibliography at the end of their writing. These bibliographies are usually divided into two categories of research materials. Primary sources are listed first, followed by secondary sources. As this ordering suggests, primary sources are regarded as the most important for historical research. These sources might take the form of documents and old texts held in archives and libraries, archaeological remains and old buildings, old newspapers, film footage, recordings of interviews from the period being studied. Secondary sources consist of the writings of other historians about a particular historical topic or event, and they are held to have a different kind of value to original sources. Secondary sources written by historians commonly appear in forms such as monographs, journal articles, popular histories and textbooks. Since the early twentieth century, however, the range of primary sources regarded as legitimate for historical research has expanded greatly. One reason for this is methodological. From the founding of the Annales approach to writing history in 1929 onwards, social and cultural historians in particular have gradually become more willing to incorporate almost any available source within their research materials – from the testimony of living witnesses, to landscapes to Disney cartoons. This turn towards new kinds of sources is largely a consequence of historians becoming more open minded about which topics of study they would regard as ‘historical’ subjects. For example, whereas Ranke had focused on the histories of state politics, historians in the Annales school wanted to be able to explain how human cultures in particular regions (not necessarily within one country) changed over time, and why. They wanted to delineate the economic, psychological, social, intellectual and physical structures of these lived cultures, and to do this they realised that they would need to go beyond the traditional topics of politics and the lives of great men. And they were similarly pluralistic in their use of non-official sources: ranging from the analysis of tree rings and parish records to the study of manuals on interior decoration or evidence of people’s eating habits.

What do the bibliographies at the end of the books list?

- a) Primary and secondary sources
- b) Acknowledgements
- c) Preface
- d) All of the above

What is most important for historical research?

- a) Secondary sources
- b) Interesting ideas
- c) Primary sources
- d) None of the above

According to the passage, what was Ranke's primary focus in historical research?

- a) Cultural histories
- b) Social histories
- c) Intellectual histories
- d) None of the above

What kind of sources did the founders of Annales approach use in their historical writings?

- a) Analysis of tree rings
- b) Parish records
- c) Records of people's eating habits
- d) All of the above

Domain- Science (For Physics, Chemistry, Biology, ESS, and Information Science candidates)

A forest area of 600 hectares experienced a tree loss of 15% in one year due to forest fires. How many hectares of trees were lost?

- a) 90 hectares
- b) 60 hectares
- c) 75 hectares
- d) 80 hectares

A moving car increases its speed by 10% in the first minute and by another 10% in the second minute. By what percentage has the car's speed increased from its initial speed?

- a) 20%
- b) 21%
- c) 19%
- d) 11%

A pair of fair six-sided dice are rolled together, and the sum is 10. What is the probability that at least one of the dice landed on a six?

- a) $\frac{1}{6}$
- b) $\frac{1}{2}$
- c) $\frac{2}{3}$
- d) $\frac{1}{3}$

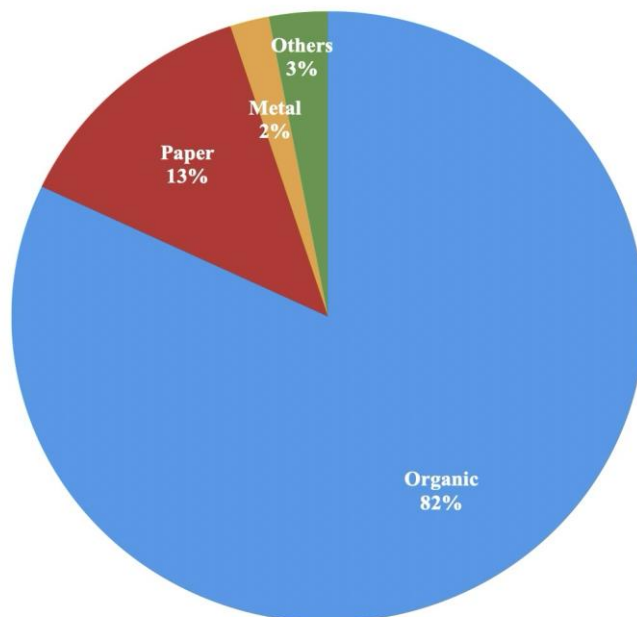
You have a balancing scale for measuring out vegetables, and two weights: 400 gm and 1 kg. Which of the following quantities can be measured out?

- a) 100 gm
- b) 200 gm
- c) 300 gm
- d) None of the above

A 3-letter password uses only letters A, B and C. Each letter can be repeated. How many passwords contain at least one B?

- a) 9
- b) 18
- c) 19
- d) 27

The pie chart below shows the composition of household waste produced per day in Bangalore. If total household waste produced per day is 700 kg, how much paper and metal waste combined is produced per day?



Source: Ramachandra et al., 2018

- a) 150 kg

- b) 15 kg
- c) 90 kg
- d) 105 kg

A community wants to build a cylindrical rainwater harvesting tank with a radius of 2 meters. What is the (approximate) area of the top surface of the tank?

(Use $\pi \approx 3.14$)

- a) 6.28 m²
- b) 12.56 m²
- c) 8.00 m²
- d) 3.14 m²

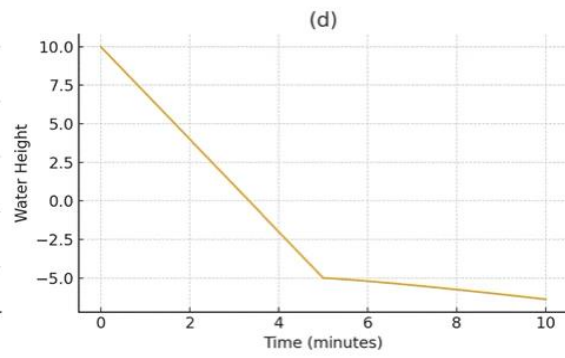
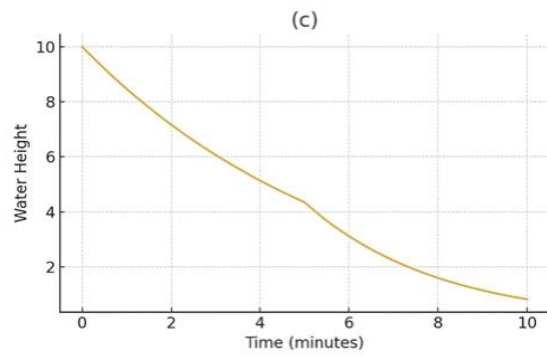
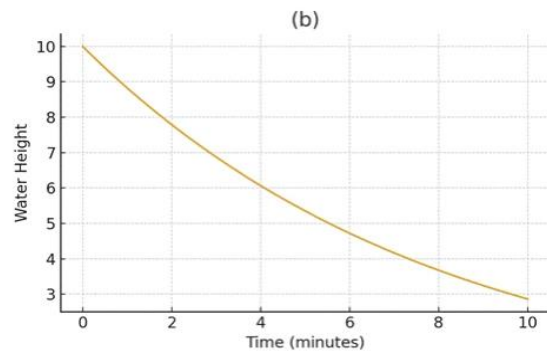
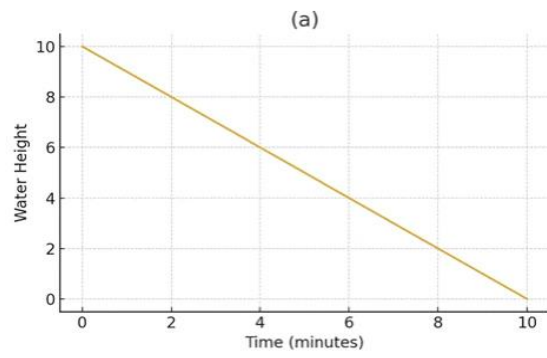
There are two stacks of paper cups on a table. When stacked, the bottom part of a cup lies inside the cup below it. The first stack is 20cm in height and contains 7 cups. The second stack containing 12 cups is 30cm in height. What is the height of an individual cup?

- a) 2.5 cm
- b) 10 cm
- c) 7 cm
- d) 8 cm

A scientist observes that roots and stems of a plant keep growing, but leaves stop growing after reaching a certain size. She wonders why this difference might be useful to the plant. Which of the following is the best explanation?

- a) Leaves stop growing to make space for flowers
- b) Very big leaves will result in too much photosynthesis, and plants will not have space to store the extra glucose.
- c) Leaves stop growing to avoid blocking sunlight from other leaves
- d) Leaves stop growing because they are more delicate than stems

A bucket has a small hole at the bottom and is initially filled with water. For the first few minutes, water drains slowly through the hole. Then someone pokes a second hole at the bottom of the bucket. Which graph best represents the height of water in the bucket over time?



- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D

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

Black pepper, a fruit of the *Piper nigrum* vine, consists of minute 0.2-inch berries or drupes, which grow on vines that coil around sturdy trees like teak or rubber. When dried or roasted, they transform into the pungent peppercorns that have long been valued within global commerce. Beyond its culinary purposes, pepper is also used in medical traditions, to aid digestion, fight infections, treat respiratory ailments, and even stimulate metabolism.

Coveted for these qualities, pepper was often equated with wealth itself in ancient times. By the early centuries CE, controlling the flow of pepper meant controlling the flow of gold. The Egyptians valued it so highly that it was discovered in the mummified nostrils of Ramses the Great, where it must have been used to mask odours and preserve the embalmed body. Pepper was also part of Greek and Roman pharmacopoeia, prescribed for insomnia and toothaches. In Rome, it became a mark of luxury: over 80 per cent of recipes in the 4th-century culinary compendium *Apicius* included pepper, underscoring its dominance in elite diets. In fact, Attila the Hun famously demanded 1.5 tons of black pepper from Rome as ransom payment in 442 CE, proof of its worth as currency.

Source: Ornelia D'Souza, "From Black Gold to Red Fire," *Critical Collective*, 6 October 2025, <https://criticalcollective.in/ArtHistoryDetail.aspx?Eid=867>

Which of the following statements is true, based on the passage?

- a) Pepper cannot be grown without teak and rubber trees.
- b) Pepper berries must be dried or roasted before they can become useful.
- c) Apicius was an important chef who lived in ancient Rome.
- d) There was a flourishing trade in pepper in the ancient world.

The primary purpose of the passage is to –

- a) Explain how black pepper was used as currency in ancient times, especially by the Romans.
- b) List the medicinal properties of black pepper.
- c) Argue that black pepper is a versatile spice that has been desired from ancient times for its culinary and medicinal value.
- d) Describe the scientific properties of black pepper.

Which statement best supports the claim that black pepper was equated with wealth in ancient times?

- a) Pepper has various medicinal properties
- b) Roasted peppercorns can be used in food preparation
- c) Atilla the Hun demanded 1.5 tons of pepper as ransom from Rome in 442 CE
- d) Pepper was traded in ancient times

Based on the passage, which one of the following conclusions would be correct?

- a) Greek and Roman doctors in the ancient world believed in the medicinal properties of pepper.
- b) All the recipes used in 4th-century Rome contained pepper as an ingredient.
- c) All Egyptian mummies used pepper for masking odours and preserving the embalmed body.
- d) Pepper was consumed by all sections of Roman society, rich and poor.

Based on the passage, what is the most likely reason that the author describes the Egyptians' use of pepper in the mummification of Ramses the Great?

- a) To show that pepper can be used for preservation
 - b) To prove that pepper was traded between civilisations
 - c) To argue that pepper was highly valued by the Egyptians
 - d) To show that pepper can be used to mask odours
-

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

In the 12 stories of *Heart Lamp*, Banu Mushtaq exquisitely captures the everyday lives of women and girls in Muslim communities in southern India. Praised for their dry and gentle humour, these portraits of family and community tensions have garnered both censure from conservative quarters as well as India's most prestigious literary awards.

Written in a style at once witty, vivid, colloquial, moving and excoriating, it's in her characters – the sparky children, the audacious grandmothers, the buffoonish maulvis and thug brothers, the oft-hapless husbands, and the mothers above all, surviving their feelings at great cost – that Mushtaq emerges as an astonishing writer and observer of human nature, building disconcerting emotional heights out of a rich spoken style.

Heart Lamp won the International Booker Prize 2025.

Source: <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/features/reading-guide-heart-lamp-by-banu-mushtaq-translated-by-deepa-bhasthi>

Based on the passage, which of the following is true?

- a) Everyone likes Banu Mushtaq's work, and it has never been criticized.
- b) The author's writing style is always serious and formal.
- c) The way the author writes about her characters is a main reason she is praised.
- d) *Heart Lamp* is mainly about the political lives of men in cities.

In the sentence, "...these portraits of family and community tensions have garnered both censure from conservative quarters as well as India's most prestigious literary awards," the word "censure" most nearly means:

- a) widespread praise
- b) strong criticism
- c) careful analysis
- d) financial support

The passage argues that Banu Mushtaq is an "astonishing writer and observer of human nature." Which of the following details from the passage most directly supports this claim?

- a) *Heart Lamp* was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2025.
- b) The stories have been praised for their dry and gentle humour.
- c) The book's portraits of family life have received both criticism and awards.
- d) She creates a range of vivid characters, such as audacious grandmothers and hapless husbands, who reveal deep emotional truths.

The author's description of the characters as "the sparky children, the audacious grandmothers, the buffoonish maulvis and thug brothers..." primarily serves to:

- a) List every major character that appears in the book *Heart Lamp*.
- b) Provide a brief plot summary for one of the twelve stories.
- c) Illustrate the variety and depth of character types that demonstrate Mushtaq's skill as an observer.
- d) Contrast the positive female characters with the negative male characters.

Based on the passage, what can be understood about the mothers portrayed in *Heart Lamp*?

- a) They are the characters who provide most of the story's dry and gentle humour.
- b) Their experiences are central to the book's exploration of emotional survival.
- c) They are portrayed as being largely helpless and dependent on their husbands.
- d) They openly challenge and reject their community's conservative values.

The sentence given below contains an error. Choose the appropriate answer from the options given that corrects it.

Every day, I see that the neighbour's dog trying to chase its own tail.

- a) Every day, I see that the neighbours dog trying to chase its own tail.
- b) Every day, I see that the neighbour's dog tries to chase its own tail.
- c) Every day, I see that the neighbour's dog trying to chase it's own tail.

d) Every day, I see that the neighbour's dog try to chase its own tail.

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The teacher asked the students if they _____ their homework on time.

- a) completed
- b) have completed
- c) had completed
- d) completes

From the options given, select the word or phrase that best completes the sentence given below.

Surprisingly, he likes neither tea _____ coffee.

- a) or
- b) and
- c) yet
- d) nor

The underlined word here must be replaced to form a correct sentence. Select the word to replace it.

The Himalayas were formed when the Indian subcontinent collisioned with the tectonic plates of the Eurasian continent.

- a) was colliding
- b) were colliding
- c) collided
- d) collisioning

A paragraph with blanks is given below. Choose the option that contains the words that are best to fill these blanks, in the correct order.

These days, most smartphones have dispensed with a 3.5 mm audio jack. There are several reasons given by manufacturers for this. First, they **(1)** _____ that removing this port allows the phones to have a thinner **(2)** _____. Second, that phones can be more **(3)** _____ to water damage without this port. Finally, they say that most people use wireless headsets anyway, so such a port is no longer needed.

- a) (1) counter (2) view (3) immune
- b) (1) agree (2) body (3) proof
- c) (1) claim (2) build (3) resistant
- d) (1) mumble (2) appearance (3) protected

Choose the word that best completes the sentence meaningfully.

The principal praised the students for their _____ effort in organizing the annual festival.

- a) careless
- b) collective
- c) hesitant
- d) isolated

Fill in the blank with the option that best completes this sentence.

Tahir was so _____ that he ate forty pooris, eight cups of rice, 12 laddus and four glasses of tea for lunch.

- a) satisfied
- b) entertained
- c) ravenous
- d) omnivorous

Select the best two words to fill in the blanks in order and complete this paragraph.

Over the years, the weather station has (1) _____ a wealth of data, relating to temperatures, humidity, and rainfall. Many statisticians work to (2) _____ it to identify patterns and trends.

- a) (1) recorded (2) enumerate
- b) (1) analysed (2) collect
- c) (1) collected (2) analyse
- d) (1) gathered (2) account

Choose the option that expresses the same idea as the sentence below most clearly and accurately.

Despite limited resources, the team managed to complete the project on time.

- a) The project could have been completed early if resources were not limited.
- b) The team finished the project on time even though resources were limited.
- c) The project was completed on time since resources were limited.
- d) The team struggled to finish the project on time because of limited resources.

The sentences given below, when put in the correct order, form a logical and grammatically correct paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Choose the best order of the sentences from among the given choices.

A) This process, known as urban cooling, can significantly reduce the "heat island" effect common in cities.

B) As cities expand, architects and planners are increasingly turning to a simple solution: planting more trees.

C) The shade from their canopies lowers surface temperatures, while water evaporating from their leaves cools the surrounding air.

D) The benefits extend beyond temperature control, also including improved air quality and enhanced well-being for residents.

a) B, C, A, D

b) A, B, C, D

c) B, A, C, D

d) C, B, A, D

Part B: Quantitative Reasoning

Out of 30 students in a class, 18 come from rural areas. What percentage are from urban areas?

a) 30%

b) 40%

c) 50%

d) 60%

The fraction $\frac{3}{5}$ is equivalent to which of the following fractions?

a) $\frac{6}{10}$

b) $\frac{3}{6}$

c) $\frac{2}{4}$

d) $\frac{5}{6}$

I have 12 apples and 4 bananas. The ratio of bananas to apples is:

a) 1:3

b) 1:2

c) 1:4

d) 2:3

Which group of fractions is correctly ordered from smallest to largest?

a) $\frac{2}{5}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{10}$

b) $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$

c) $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$

d) $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{6}$

Which group of decimals is correctly ordered from largest to smallest?

- a) 0.90, 0.75, 0.60, 0.45
- b) 0.45, 0.75, 0.90, 0.60
- c) 0.33, 0.30, 0.27, 0.29
- d) 0.51, 0.50, 0.55, 0.53

The cost of 2 kg of dal is Rs. 150. What is the cost of 0.5 kg of dal?

- a) Rs.25
- b) Rs.37.5
- c) Rs.50
- d) Rs.60

The doctor says each child should eat at least 250 g of vegetables daily. Which of the following is equivalent to 250 g?

- a) 0.25 kg
- b) 2.50 kg
- c) 02.5 kg
- d) 025 kg

I scored 14 out of 20. My friend scored 33 out of 50. Who scored a higher percentage?

- a) I scored higher
- b) My friend scored higher
- c) Both scored the same percentage
- d) None

Currently 1 Indian rupee is equal to roughly 2 Kenyan shillings. With 15 rupees, how many pens costing 5 shillings each can I buy?

- a) 6
- b) 5
- c) 4
- d) 3

Ali sells 12 kg of marigold flowers for Rs.360. He spent Rs.18 per kg. What is the profit per kg?

- a) Rs.10

- b) Rs.11
- c) Rs.12
- d) Rs.15

“At least one politician is corrupt” implies that:

- a) No politicians are corrupt
- b) Not all politicians are corrupt
- c) Some politicians are not corrupt
- d) Some politicians are corrupt

In a certain city, 70% of residents drive a car, 60% ride a bike, and 50% take the bus. Among those who drive a car, 80% also ride a bike, and among those who ride a bike, 70% also take the bus. Which of the following statements must be true?

- a) Some residents of the city use all three modes of transport.
- b) Every resident of the city uses all three modes of transport.
- c) More than 30% of the city’s residents use none of the three types of transport.
- d) Less than 50% of the city’s residents use two or more modes of transport.

The weights of 3 bags is given as A, B and C. B is the heaviest bag, but C is heavier than A. Which of the following is true?

- a) $A > B > C$
- b) $A > C > B$
- c) $B > C > A$
- d) $C > B$ and $B > A$

If A is necessary for B, it means that it is impossible for B to be true if A is not true. If A is sufficient for B, it means that A being true guarantees that B is true. Keeping this in mind -

A professor tells you that “If you use Chat GPT, then you will fail the course”. Do they mean..

- a) Using Chat GPT is a necessary condition for failing the course.
- b) Using Chat GPT is a sufficient condition for failing the course.
- c) Using Chat GPT is a necessary and sufficient condition to fail the course.
- d) Using Chat GPT is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition to fail the course.

In a clothes store, there are two types of shelves: wooden and metal. Only wooden shelves have shirts. Some clothes in the store are discounted. All discounted clothes are kept on metal shelves.

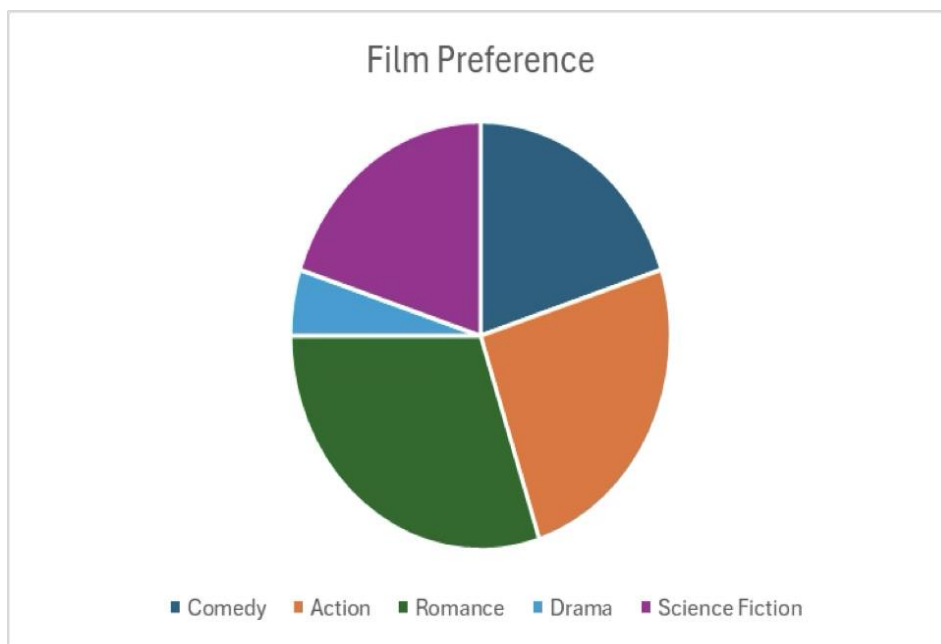
Based only on the above information, which of the following statements must be true?

- a) Some clothes on wooden shelves are discounted.
- b) If an item of clothing is kept on a metal shelf, it is discounted.
- c) No discounted clothes are shirts.
- d) Some shirts are kept on metal shelves.

I have three plants whose heights are 1.5 foot, 2 feet, 2.5 feet respectively. Now I got one more plant of height 2 feet. What is the average height of my plants?

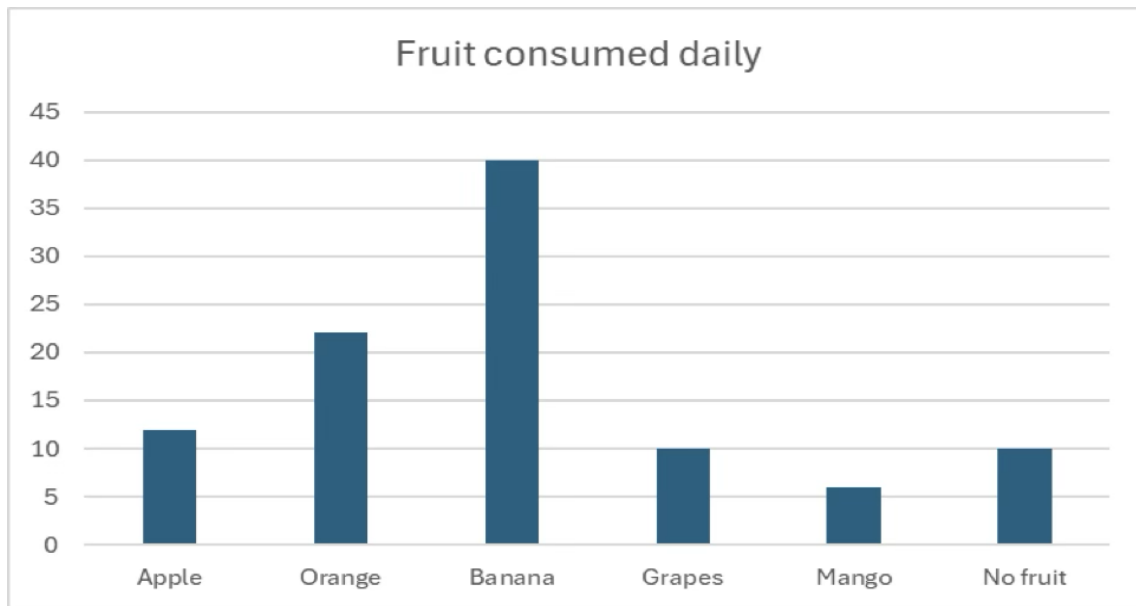
- a) 1 foot
- b) 2 feet
- c) 3 feet
- d) 2.5 feet

See the chart given below. It shows the share of votes for movie choice among 20 students. We are given that two of the movie categories both had 20% of the votes. Which are those categories?



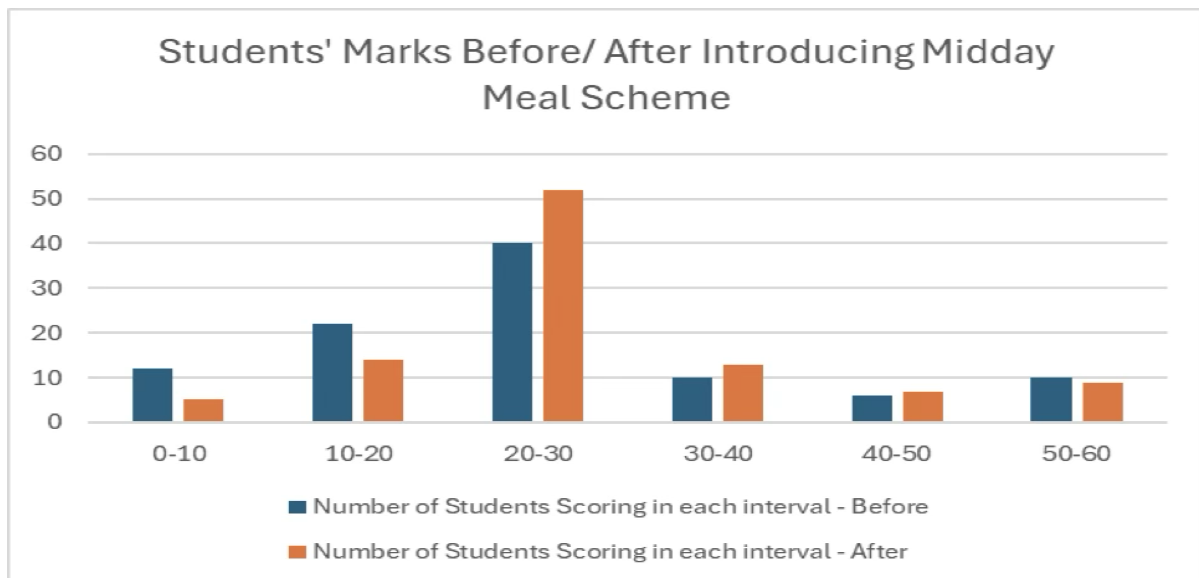
- a) Comedy and Science Fiction
- b) Drama and Comedy
- c) Action and Romance
- d) Comedy and Drama

100 students were asked which fruit they eat daily and their answers are shown in the bar chart below. What percentage of students said they don't eat any fruit daily?



- a) 10%
- b) 21%
- c) 8%
- d) 2%

The Midday Meal scheme was introduced in schools to improve students' health and ability to learn better. The chart below shows some data about students' marks before and after introducing midday meal. One of the following groups did not see an increase in the number of students. Which is the group?



- a) 20-30 marks
- b) 30-40 marks
- c) 50-60 marks
- d) 40-50 marks

Find the mode of the 4 values: 10, 20, 20, 30.

- a) 20
- b) 10
- c) 20.5
- d) 22

Part C: Domain Social Science (For Economics, Social Science, PPE and Psychology students)

Read the paragraph below and answer the following questions.

I consider myself a “constitutional Indian.” For me, belonging to India is not about ancient myths of a single civilisation, but about the Constitution, which promises equality and rights. Like many young Nagas, I take pride in my language, history, and culture. At the same time, I seek common ground with other citizens through democracy and secular values. I believe that true inclusion does not come from Brahmanical traditions, but from equal citizenship under the law.

Adapted from G. Kanato Choppy, *“For Nagas, the idea of India is not defined by the Brahmanical notion of a timeless civilisation”*, Scroll.in, 2021

What is the central idea of the passage?

- a) The author rejects Indian citizenship completely.
- b) Naga identity can co-exist with constitutional values of equality.
- c) Ancient myths are the only basis for belonging to India.
- d) The Indian Constitution erases cultural traditions.

Which example most clearly applies the author’s perspective?

- a) A politician says regional languages should be replaced by Hindi.
- b) A historian claims Sanskrit texts prove India has always been one civilisation.
- c) A Dalit activist argues equality must be judged by the Constitution, not religion.
- d) A student rejects the Constitution as foreign and irrelevant.

Which viewpoint would most directly challenge the author’s position?

- a) India’s unity depends on preserving ancient civilisational traditions.
- b) The Constitution is the most important basis for equal citizenship.
- c) Communities can balance cultural pride with democratic citizenship.
- d) Legal rights are essential for true inclusion in the nation.

Eyewitness testimony is when a person who saw a crime or accident tells the police or court what they remember seeing. This person is called an eyewitness, and their statement or memory of the event is used as evidence. Eyewitness testimony can be very powerful in court, but it's not always perfect, as people can misremember details, especially if they are scared, confused, or if a lot of time has passed. Explain which of these is an example of eye-witness testimony:

- a) A person describing what they heard about a robbery from a friend.
- b) A witness telling the police they saw a man with a gun when buying vegetables
- c) A detective explaining how the crime scene was investigated.
- d) A reporter summarizing from all the sources what happened at the crime scene on the news

Personality is the unique way a person thinks, feels, and behaves over time.

Which of the following shows personality?

- a) One student is always cheerful and friendly with everyone.
- b) One student borrows a pencil for the first time.
- c) One student trips while walking.
- d) One student eats lunch in class.

A researcher is interested in whether the results of her experiment (conducted in Kerala) would be the same if the experiment were conducted in Assam. This researcher is concerned with:

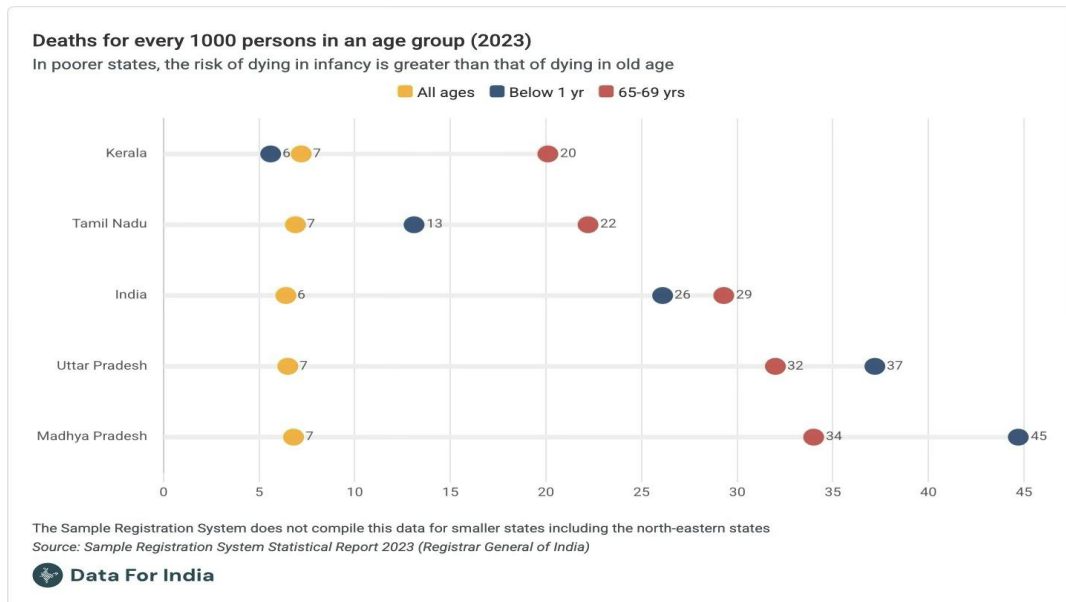
- a) External validity: the extent to which a study's results can be generalized to other people, settings, and times.
- b) Construct validity: the extent to which a method accurately assesses the concept
- c) Empirical validity: the degree to which a concept, theory, or measurement is supported by real-world, observed evidence
- d) Internal validity: the extent to which the findings are not due to other causes or factors.

A researcher wants to find out if sleep affects how well students remember new information. He conducted an experiment where he divided students into two groups: the students in the first group slept for 8 hours before the test, and the students in the second group slept for only 4 hours before the test. The next morning, both groups take the same memory test, and their scores are compared. What is the main factor that was controlled by the researcher?

- a) The number of hours of sleep
- b) The time of day the test is taken
- c) The number of students in each group

d) The memory test score

The graph gives the mortality rates per 1000 persons for selected states and for India for the year 2023, for three age groups. How many deaths per 1000 people does Madhya Pradesh register for the age group of 65-69 years age?

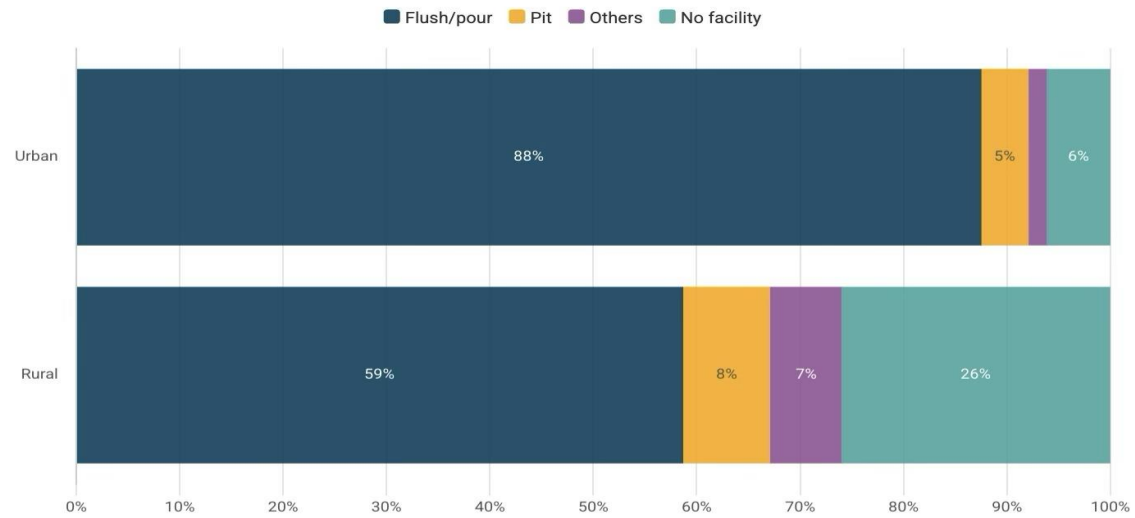


- a) 32
- b) 26
- c) 34
- d) 29

The following graph presents the type of toilets by place of residence for India in 2021. For every 1000 houses, how many urban houses use flush/pour toilets?

Type of toilet facility by place of residence (2021)

Urban households have greater access to sanitation and higher usage of improved facilities



Source: National Family Health Survey (2019-21), International Institute for Population Sciences

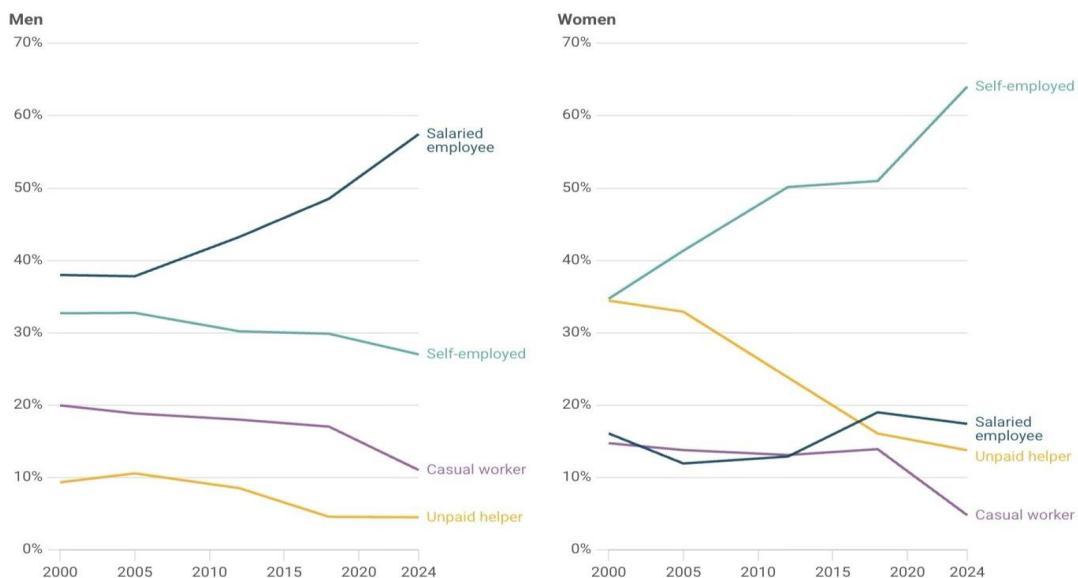
Data For India

- a) 880
- b) 88
- c) 8800
- d) 8.8

The charts show the changing shares of employed men and women in different types of jobs in the manufacturing sector. Based on the charts, which of the following statements is false?

Change in employment type in manufacturing, by gender

While salaried jobs have increased among men, self-employment has grown among women



Source: Employment Unemployment Surveys, National Statistics Office, and Periodic Labour Force Surveys, National Statistics Office

Data For India

- a) A greater share of men have worked as unpaid helpers in manufacturing compared to women in all years
- b) The share of women in self employment in manufacturing has shot up since 2020
- c) Since 2018, while more working men are engaged in salaried employment in manufacturing, the corresponding share for women has been declining
- d) In 2024, the share of men employed as casual workers in manufacturing was lower than the share of women working as casual workers

Domain-Humanities (For English, History, and Media and Communications Studies candidates)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The vast, low-lying tract along the river is crowded with multi-coloured flowers: marigolds, balsams, cabbage roses, moon and sunflowers. Wandering grain merchants camp here and this is where Jumma the washerman dries his clothes. His donkeys graze among the flowers, and he also cultivates arhar daal here. Occasionally, the tip of his plough hits a decaying, rust-covered piece of metal, which he picks up, takes a good look at and then, disappointed, tosses it far away. The earthworms continue their labour in the powdery soil. Who cares about the lives or age of these earthworms, yet they spend all their time busily building their homes, piling up tiny pellets of wet mud into heaps. To one side, the cowherds and milkmen have planted vegetables. The earth is very fertile. Plant whatever in whichever season and it will grow.

Well-built, with silver-grey hair, black-framed spectacles, a Havana cigar in his mouth, Shaikh Azhar Ali was the classic picture of a successful and affluent barrister known for winning complicated property and land cases. His son, Qambar Ali, was a young man of modern times who made fiery speeches against private property in the Students' Union. In contrast to his father, he, the only son, was slightly built, pale-faced and pampered, with a slight stammer from his childhood which people attributed to the overpowering personality of his father. It was to disguise this stammer that he had practised the art of oratory and gradually became a student leader. His mother, Badrunnisa Azhar Ali, who was called Bitto Baji, was a social reformer. She used to give speeches about women's rights at women's gatherings and was part of the delegations of prominent women sent to Red China, Europe and Egypt.

Source: *Chandini Begum*, Qurratulain Hyder, 1989. Trans. Saleem Kidwai.

What is the major shift between the ideas in Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2?

- a) While Paragraph 1 focusses on the character of Jumma and the washerman, Paragraph 2 is focussed on Bitto Baji.
- b) While Paragraph 1 is focussed on a place, Paragraph 2 is focussed on three characters in a family.
- c) Paragraph 1 is an introduction, while Paragraph 2 tells a long narrative about a lawyer.
- d) Both paragraphs are similar, in that they are focussed on life along the river.

What is the basis on which Qambar Ali and his father are being contrasted?

- a) On the basis of how much they talk: one is silent and the other is a fiery lawyer who makes big speeches.
- b) On the basis of their physique and their character
- c) On the basis of their relationship with Badrunissa Azhar Ali.
- d) On the basis of their character and their smoking habits

Which is the closest in meaning to the word “oratory” as used in the passage?

- a) Talking
- b) Stand-up comedy
- c) Public speaking
- d) Advertisement

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Karnataka has recorded one of the sharpest declines in child marriages in the country, with cases falling by 55% among girls and 88% among boys over the past three years, according to a new study.

The report, “Tipping Point to Zero: Evidence Towards a Child Marriage Free India,” was released by Just Rights for Children (JRC), a network of over 250 NGOs. It attributes the fall to awareness campaigns, stronger legal deterrence, and community-level interventions that created trust in reporting mechanisms.

Unlike most other states, Karnataka relied more on helplines (75%) and Child Welfare Committees (53%) than police stations (40%) for reporting cases. This shift, the report noted, shows “a critical link between trust in community-based systems and action against child marriage.”

The state government’s move to empower Panchayat Development Officers (PDO’s) to register marriages was described as a “turning point.” Being accessible to villagers, PDOs build awareness and prevented nearly 2,000 child marriages in 2021 alone. Karnataka also became the first state to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, making even engagements involving minors a punishable offence, the study noted.

The report recommends stricter enforcement of the law and compulsory marriage registration. It urges designating a National Day Against Child Marriage to mobilise support for a child marriage-free India by 2030.

What is not included in this story?

- a) The overall number of child marriages in Karnataka.

- b) The mechanisms to report child marriages.
- c) The goal of the legal amendment.
- d) The position of Karnataka vis-à-vis other states

What is the primary reason that Karnataka has made progress in reducing the number of child marriages?

- a) More citizens are turning to the police to retrieve their children.
- b) Teenagers have realized that early marriage will hamper their chances to get a good education.
- c) Panchayat leaders have cracked down on corruption that prompted the authorities to look the other way in such cases.
- d) Citizens are more proactive in phoning helplines.

How would you categorize this story?

- a) Opinion piece
- b) News report
- c) An academic paper
- d) An economic survey

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

It was India's natural history that was predominantly to engage the attention of the country's first museums. While the ancient past remained an alluring mystery, waiting to be deciphered from texts, coins, inscriptions, and material remains, the peculiarities and varieties of the botanical and zoological specimens more easily absorbed the amateur scholar. From the late eighteenth century onward, East India Company's civilians established several small menageries and botanical collections, with native artists employed in the visual documentation of these natural history specimens. The interests of ethnology and natural history—on the one hand, India's strange medley of tribes, trades, and castes; on the other hand, its equally exotic nonhuman array of plants, flowers, fruits, birds, insects, and animals—produced the new genre of “Company paintings” during this period. Pictorial representation went hand in hand with systematic collection and schematization. Well before archaeology marked out its sprawling field in India, India's natural history had begun to emerge as a prime subject of scientific knowledge within the institutional sites of museums. Even within the Asiatic Society, a stronghold of philological and textual scholarship, the move for a museum had been initiated by an amateur botanist, Dr Nathaniel Wallich, with his own private collection of botanical specimens. Wallich became the first Honorary Curator of the Society's Museum, to which came his own and a few other individual collections. The museum was divided into two main sections — the archaeological and ethnological, and the geological and zoological. The

contribution of a vast collection of geological specimens had necessitated the first separation and specialisation: the setting up of a Museum of Economic Geology in 1856 under a separate curatorship, which henceforth received all samples of minerals and fossils. With time, the botanical specimens acquired by the museum began to be farmed out to the Botanical Gardens for a separate conservatory that was planned there. And the steady death and depletion of the museum's holding of live animals called for their transference to other menageries where the animals could be better kept alive — with the museums retaining a claim to their skins on their death for its Taxidermy department.

How did natural history become a priority for the first colonial museums?

- a) Because the texts were not deciphered yet.
- b) Because natural history was easier for the civilian scholars to observe and understand
- c) Both a & b
- d) None of the above

What was included in the 'company painting'?

- a) Sketches of Company officials
- b) Sketches of plants, fruits, insects and animals
- c) Sketches of castes and tribes
- d) Both b and c

What was included in the museum of the Asiatic Society?

- a) Archaeological section
- b) Zoological section
- c) Dr Nathaniel Wallich's private collection of botanical specimens
- d) All of the above

Which of the following were exhibited in the colonial menageries?

- a) Plants
- b) Fossils
- c) Live Animals
- d) Samples of Minerals

Domain-Science (For Physics, Chemistry, Biology, ESS, and Information Science candidates)

Vehicles in a certain area emit a total of 500 kg/day of a pollutant. The area has 100,000 people. What is the emission per person per day?

- a) 0.5 g
- b) 200 g
- c) 5 g
- d) 10 g

Two students, Priya and Bhanu, leave their house at the same time for school. Priya lives 2 km away from school, and Bhanu lives 1.5 km away from school. Priya walks at a speed of 4 kmph and Bhanu at 3 kmph. Which of the following is true?

- a) Priya will reach school first
- b) Bhanu will reach school first
- c) Both reach at the same time
- d) We cannot determine who will reach first without knowing their directions.

A drawer contains socks of three colours: red, blue, and green, mixed together. You cannot see the colour of a sock until you take it out of the drawer. What is the minimum number of socks you must take out to be absolutely sure you have at least one matching pair (two socks of the same colour)?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) 6

The table shows CO₂ emissions (in million tons) from two countries between 2010–2020.

Year	Country A	Country B
2010	500	700
2015	650	750
2020	800	760

Which statement is correct?

- a) Country A's emission growth rate decreased in 2015.
- b) Country B reduced its emissions between 2010 and 2020.
- c) Country A's emissions increased by 60% in 10 years.
- d) The total emissions in 2020 were equal for both countries.

Suppose a and b are real numbers with $a < b$. Which of the following is guaranteed to be true?

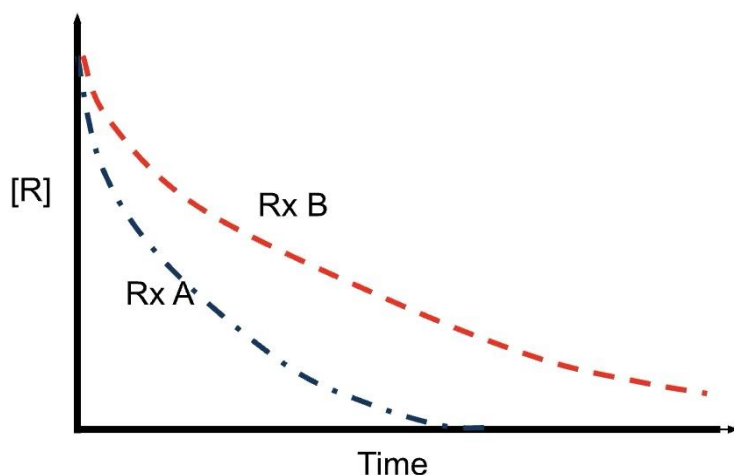
- a) b is less than a
- b) $a - b$ is negative

- c) $2b - a$ is positive
- d) All of the above

Three bus routes, A, B and C, all start from place P, and run every 10, 30 and 40 minutes respectively. Suppose all three buses start at the same time at 9:00 am. When will one be able to see all three buses start together again at place P?

- a) 9:30 AM
- b) 10:00 AM
- c) 10:20 AM
- d) 11:00 AM

The graph below shows reactions (A) $R \rightarrow P$ and (B) $R \rightarrow Q$. The concentration of $[R]$ is plotted against time.



Which of the following is true?

- a) Reaction A is faster than Reaction B
- b) Reaction B is faster than Reaction A
- c) Reactions A and B have the same rate of reaction
- d) No conclusion about the rate of these reactions can be made from this graph.

A bag contains a blue marble and a red marble. When we take a marble out of the bag, we note down its colour, and then replace it in the bag. Suppose in the first ten attempts, we only get the blue marble. Which of the following can we conclude?

- a) The chance of getting the red marble in the 11th attempt is over 90%
- b) The chance of getting the red marble in the 11th attempt is 0%

- c) The chance of getting the red marble in the 11th attempt is 50%
- d) None of the above.

Two blocks A and B of the same size are gently placed in water. Half of block A gets submerged and $\frac{3}{4}$ of block B gets submerged. The buoyant force on the blocks is the weight of water displaced by the blocks. Which block experiences more upward buoyant force?

- a) A experiences more buoyant force
- b) B experiences more buoyant force
- c) Both of them experience the same amount of force
- d) This cannot be determined with the given information

A research student is trying to understand how energy moves through an ecosystem. She notices that, i) plants capture energy from the sun, ii) animals eat plants and use that energy, and iii) eventually energy is lost as heat as it moves through the system. Based on this, which statement is the most logical about energy flow in an ecosystem?

- a) It is a two-way flow, because energy goes back and forth between organisms
- b) It is a multi-directional flow, because energy spreads in all directions
- c) It is a cyclical flow, because energy returns to the starting point.
- d) It is unidirectional flow, because energy moves in one direction and is not recycled

UG Question Paper_2026_ Offline_ English

Part A: Reading Comprehension

A. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Visiting farmers' homes in 1984, almost the first thing I was met with everywhere was a glass of fresh milk. In some parts of western Maharashtra, you would be given an additional tumbler as you left the household. In coastal Andhra Pradesh, the milk often came in a silver tumbler—a sign of respect for the guest, and a statement of the status of a farmer doing well.

In farm households in Tamil Nadu, you got the milk in pure brass tumblers. Sometimes, that brass tumbler would have fabulous filter coffee. By the 1990s, across many states, the silver tumblers had given way to stainless steel ones. After 1991, they still gave you fresh milk, but now it often came in a cracked piece of crockery, maybe a cup chipped at the edges. By the mid-1990s, I found myself drinking out of glass tumblers.

By 2000, the milk had been replaced by *chai*. In Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, by 2003-04, it was black *chai*. The amount of sugar in the tea—conventionally a sign of affection and respect—also kept shrinking. By the middle of that decade, the glass tumbler had disappeared. The small quantity of black *chai* now came in those hideous plastic cups you get aboard trains and at bus depots.

The tumbler and its downward journey are a metaphor for the decline of the farm economy. It also reflects the disastrous impact of economic policies that have allowed private companies to push down milk prices (and that of all other farm produce) at the very time we unleashed "market-based pricing" that allowed price gouging at the consumer end.

Source: <https://ruralindiaonline.org/article/agriculture-in-the-age-of-inequality>

Which of these is **NOT** stated as one of the reasons that farmers give guests glasses of milk, chai, or coffee?

- a) As a sign of affection towards the guest
- b) To reflect the farmer's status
- c) As a payment to the guest
- d) As a sign of respect towards the guest

What is the writer's main purpose in discussing their experience with the changing use of tumblers in rural India?

- a) The personal anecdotes will help the reader identify with his love for tea.
- b) The tumblers act as a case that shows the effects of the weakening rural economy.
- c) The writer wants to show the regional variation in what people in India drink.
- d) The focus on the tumbler is so that the reader will reflect upon their own household practices.

Which of these statements does not support the argument that the farm economy is in distress?

- a) Farmers no longer use silver tumblers to greet their guests.
- b) Plastic cups have replaced steel, glass, brass, silver and other materials in farmers' homes.
- c) By 2000, farmers in the Vidharbha region drank their tea black, without milk, and with very little sugar.
- d) Rural households continue to provide a drink to their guests.

Based on the passage, which one of the following conclusions would be correct?

- a) The declining quality of tumblers used in rural households reflects their diminishing economic status
- b) Rural households have stopped drinking milk
- c) Rural households are not as hospitable as they used to be
- d) There is no sugar produced or sold in Vidarbha

“By 2000, the milk had been replaced by chai. In Maharashtra’s Vidarbha region, by 2003-04, it was black chai.” What is the most likely reason for this statement by the author?

- a) To show changing dietary preferences in rural India from milk to *chai* in the 2000’s
- b) To describe how Vidarbha is similar to other parts of rural India
- c) To show that the cost of milk production was going up
- d) To demonstrate the inability of rural households to afford milk and therefore their declining economic position

B. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

In an interview, Daniel Seymour, UN Women's Director of Strategic Partnerships, and Susan Jane Ferguson, Country Representative for UN Women in India, shared insights on the country's strides and the challenges that remain [in moving towards women's equality]. The conversation highlighted India's increased investments in women's empowerment and gender-responsive policies, yet stressed that deep-rooted social norms and limited financing continue to hamper full progress. “India's progress is significant, but closing the remaining gaps requires targeted efforts across both public and private sectors,” Ferguson said. India has seen substantial growth in recent years, especially in gender-responsive budgeting, which has increased to 6.8 per cent, according to the Gender Budget Statement (GBS), Union Budget of India 2024–25. “This increase in public investment is crucial to transforming women's lives, especially when directed toward specific needs of women and girls,” Ferguson said, emphasising that continued expansion of this budget is essential to close remaining gaps in areas such as health, education, and economic opportunities. Despite an increase in public investment, Ferguson noted that private sector investment remains essential to reach these goals fully. “We are actively collaborating with Indian businesses to enhance investments for

women's empowerment initiatives," she added, highlighting the role of private sector support in boosting access to finance for women-owned businesses.

Source: *Business Standard*, "India's gender equality advancing; social norms, safety concerns remain," October 27, 2024.

According to the passage, which of the following is true about the efforts of the UN to promote gender empowerment in India?

- a) The UN is collaborating with the Indian government to build more investment in women-owned businesses.
- b) The UN is working with Indian businesses on financing more women-owned businesses.
- c) The UN is working with Indian businesses to make a gender-sensitive budget.
- d) The UN is collaborating with health and education departments to increase opportunities for women.

In the sentence, "The conversation highlighted India's increased investments in women's empowerment and gender-responsive policies, yet stressed that deep-rooted social norms and limited financing continue to hamper full progress," what does the word "hamper" mean?

- a) To gift
- b) To prevent or make something difficult
- c) To ease or enable
- d) To show

The passage argues that gaps remain in women's empowerment in India. Which of the following details from the passage most directly supports this claim?

- a) Public investment in health, education and economic opportunities contributes to women's empowerment.
- b) India has seen substantial growth in gender-responsive budgeting, which has increased to 6.8 per cent in 2024–25.
- c) The UN and India need to collaborate to increase women's economic participation.
- d) Private sector investment is needed to finance women-led enterprises.

Which of the following statements accurately represents the purpose of the passage?

- a) To describe the relationship between the Indian government and the UN
- b) To discuss the importance of gender empowerment for the UN and the Indian government
- c) To describe the progress made in gender empowerment in India and the factors that prevent the gap from closing
- d) To introduce the reader to Gender Budget Statements

While noting the increase in the government's gender-responsive budgeting, why does the passage say such a continued increase is necessary?

- a) Because gender is a major concern of the government.
 - b) Because social norms prevent the gender gap from closing.
 - c) Because it is essential to close remaining gaps in areas such as health, education, and economic opportunities.
 - d) Because private sector investment responds to public investment.
-

The sentence given below contains an error. Choose the appropriate answer from the options given that corrects it.

Most experts agree that cooking your own food at home is more better than eating at a restaurant.

- a) Most experts agreed that cooking your own food at home is more better than eating at a restaurant.
- b) Most experts will agree that cooking your own food at home is good than eating at a restaurant.
- c) Most experts agree that cooking your own food at home is better than eating at a restaurant.
- d) Most experts agree that cooking your own food at home is more good than eating at a restaurant.

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The bus jumped suddenly as the driver drove over a pothole, and a baby _____ cry.

- a) begins to
- b) beginning
- c) began to
- d) began

From the options given, select the word or phrase that best completes the sentence given below.

Among all the subjects, Ria found mathematics to be the _____.

- a) Most easy
- b) Easiest
- c) Easier
- d) Easy

Only one of these sentences is correct. Which one?

- a) Although Ashwathi hadn't studied at all, she still managed to pass the exam.

- b) Because Ashwathi hadn't studied at all, she still managed to pass the exam.
- c) Despite Ashwathi hadn't studied at all, she still managed to pass the exam.
- d) However Ashwathi hadn't studied at all, she still managed to pass the exam.

A paragraph with blanks is given below. Choose the option that contains the words that are best to fill these blanks, in the correct order.

The English teacher praised Mannat yesterday, saying: "You are the best (1) _____ all my students. This year, you have been performing very well in all English assignments and tests, right (2) _____ the beginning of the year. So, (3) _____ something goes very wrong, you will certainly get good marks in the final examination too.

- a) (1) among (2) since (3) unless
- b) (1) between (2) from (3) until
- c) (1) of (2) up to (3) if
- d) from (2) until (3) although

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

If the manager had known earlier, the issue _____ resolved quickly.

- a) will be
- b) would be
- c) would have been
- d) was

Select the best two words to fill in the blanks in order and complete this paragraph.

In _____, there are very few things that are as significant to the future as education. One must plan for it with _____.

- a) contrast, nervousness
- b) truth, laughter
- c) fact, seriousness
- d) conclusion, spontaneity

Select the best two words to fill in the blanks in order and complete this sentence.

The speaker's argument was so (1) _____ that it convinced even the (2) _____ in the audience.

- a) (1) persuasive (2) skeptics
- b) (1) naive (2) fools

- c) (1) repetitive (2) doubters
- d) (1) verbose (2) professors

Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the sentence below.

The government afforestation policy in the 1950s recommended planting eucalyptus seedlings in rows across denuded hillsides in the Nilgiris.

- a) According to the government, the best way to make a forest is to plant rows of eucalyptus trees.
- b) In the 1950s, the official government policy for regrowing forests endorsed eucalyptus to be planted in deforested hillsides in the Nilgiris.
- c) As per official government policy in the 1950s, lines of eucalyptus seedlings were to be planted on all hillsides in the Nilgiris.
- d) In the 1950s, the government declared that all hillsides had to be compulsorily afforested with eucalyptus.

The sentences given below, when put in the correct order, form a logical and grammatically correct paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Choose the best order of the sentences from among the given choices.

- A) Commenting on the Great Nicobar Project, the Congress member of parliament Jairam Ramesh argued that the social impact assessment conducted for the project ignored the existence of the Nicobarese people.
- B) The Nicobarese are anxious that they might lose their lands to an upcoming development project termed the Great Nicobar Project, which a former secretary to the island claimed could turn it into “an alternative to Hong Kong”.
- C) While these debates have unfolded on the mainland, voices from the island have been largely missing.
- D) In response, environment minister Bhupender Yadav claimed that the tribal population’s interest will not be affected adversely.

- a) A, D, C, B
- b) B, D, C, A
- c) B, A, D, C
- d) A, B, D, C

Part B: Quantitative Reasoning

Out of 40 students in a class, 10 are absent today. What percentage are present?

- a) 60%
- b) 70%
- c) 75%
- d) 80%

The fraction $\frac{2}{7}$ is equivalent to which of the following fractions?

- a) $\frac{3}{7}$
- b) $\frac{4}{14}$
- c) $\frac{6}{10}$
- d) $\frac{2}{10}$

I have 15 marbles and 5 coins. The ratio of coins to marbles is:

- a) 1:2
- b) 1:3
- c) 1:4
- d) 2:3

Which group of fractions is correctly ordered from smallest to largest?

- a) $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{2}$
- b) $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{6}$
- c) $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{12}$, $\frac{1}{8}$
- d) $\frac{3}{10}$, $\frac{2}{10}$, $\frac{3}{4}$

Which group of decimals is correctly ordered from largest to smallest?

- a) 0.03, 0.23, 0.19, 0.12
- b) 0.48, 0.36, 0.24, 0.12
- c) 0.20, 0.28, 0.25, 0.22
- d) 0.05, 0.50, 0.45, 0.40

If 500 gm of sugar costs Rs.22, what is the cost of 2 kg of sugar?

- a) Rs. 88
- b) Rs. 66
- c) Rs. 44
- d) Rs. 100

One litre of water is equal to 1 kg water. The doctor says each person should drink at least 2.5 kg of water daily. Which of the following is equivalent to 2.5 kg of water?

- a) 2500 ml
- b) 250.0 ml
- c) 25.00 ml
- d) 2.500 ml

I scored 18 out of 30. My friend scored 21 out of 35. Who scored a higher percentage?

- a) I scored higher
- b) Both scored the same percentage
- c) My friend scored higher
- d) None

Currently 1 Indian rupee is equal to roughly 1.25 Moroccan dirham. With 20 rupees, how many toys costing 5 dirham each can I buy?

- a) 5
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 3

Ali sells 15 kg of vegetables for Rs.450. He spent Rs.300 total. What is the profit per kg?

- a) Rs. 5
- b) Rs. 10
- c) Rs. 8
- d) Rs. 12

“Some dogs are pets” implies that:

- a) Some pets are dogs
- b) All pets are dogs
- c) All dogs are pets
- d) Some dogs are not pets

In a certain village, 70% of villagers are farmers, 60% have chickens, and 50% have cows. Among those who are farmers, 80% also have chickens, and among those who own chickens, 70% also have cows. Which of the following statements must be true?

- a) Some villagers have all three means of livelihood.
- b) Every villager has all three means of livelihood.
- c) More than 30% of the villagers have none of the three types of livelihood.
- d) Less than 50% of the villagers have two or more means of livelihood.

The area of 3 countries is given as A, B and C. A is smaller than B, and B is bigger than C. Which of the following is true?

- a) $A > C$
- b) $A > C > B$
- c) $B > A$ and $B > C$
- d) $C > B$ and $B > A$

If A is necessary for B, it means that it is impossible for B to be true if A is not true. If A is sufficient for B, it means that A being true guarantees that B is true. Keeping this in mind - A professor tells you that “If you are caught cheating, then you will fail the course”. Do they mean.

- a) Being caught cheating is a necessary condition for failing the course.
- b) Being caught cheating is a sufficient condition for failing the course.
- c) Being caught cheating is a necessary and sufficient condition to fail the course.
- d) Being caught cheating is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition to fail the course.

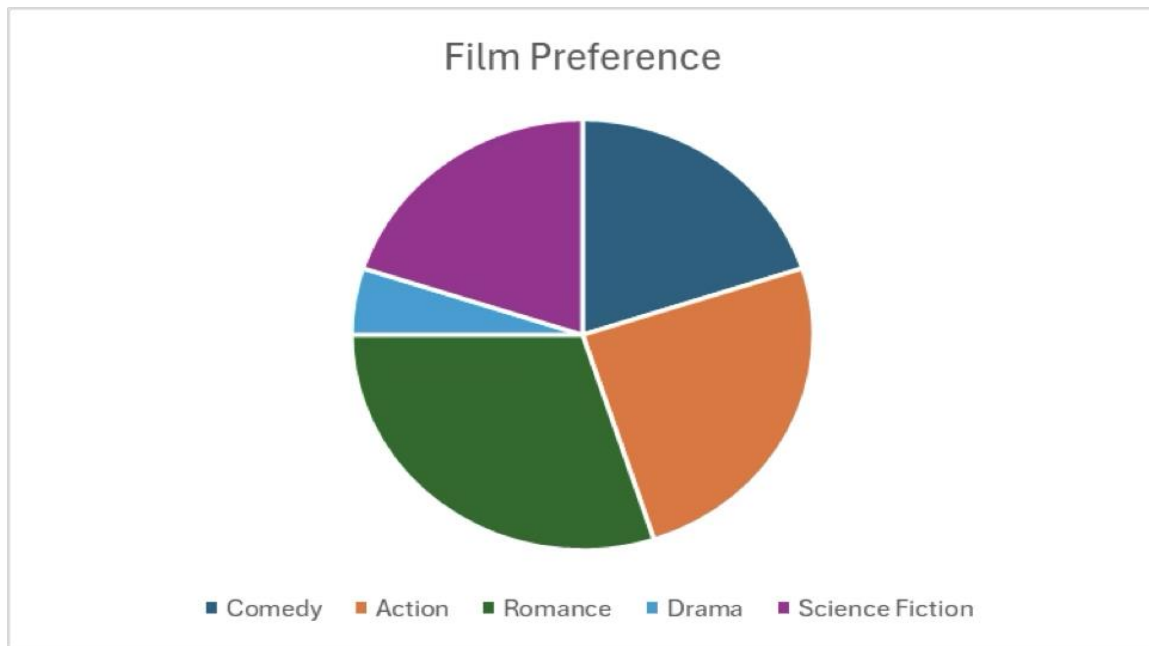
In a fruit shop, there are two types of shelves: wooden and metal. Only wooden shelves have apples. Some fruits in the shop are imported. All imported fruits are kept on metal shelves. Based only on the above information, which of the following statements must be true?

- a) Some fruits on wooden shelves are imported.
- b) If a fruit is kept on a metal shelf, then it is imported.
- c) No imported fruits are apples.
- d) Some apples are kept on metal shelves.

I have three plants whose heights are 1.5 feet, 2.5 feet, 3.5 feet respectively. Now I got one more plant of height 2 feet. What is the average height of my plants?

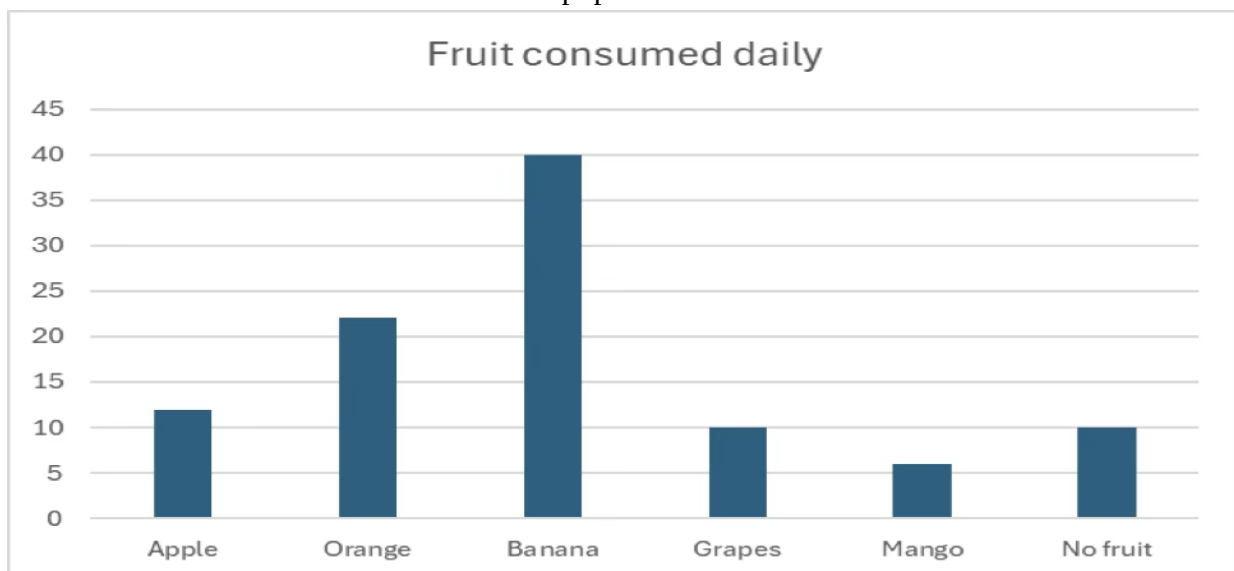
- a) 1.3 foot
- b) 2.0 feet
- c) 2.38 feet
- d) 2.5 feet

See the chart given below. It shows the share of votes for movie choice among 20 students. We are given that the second most popular type had 25% of the votes. Which is that category?



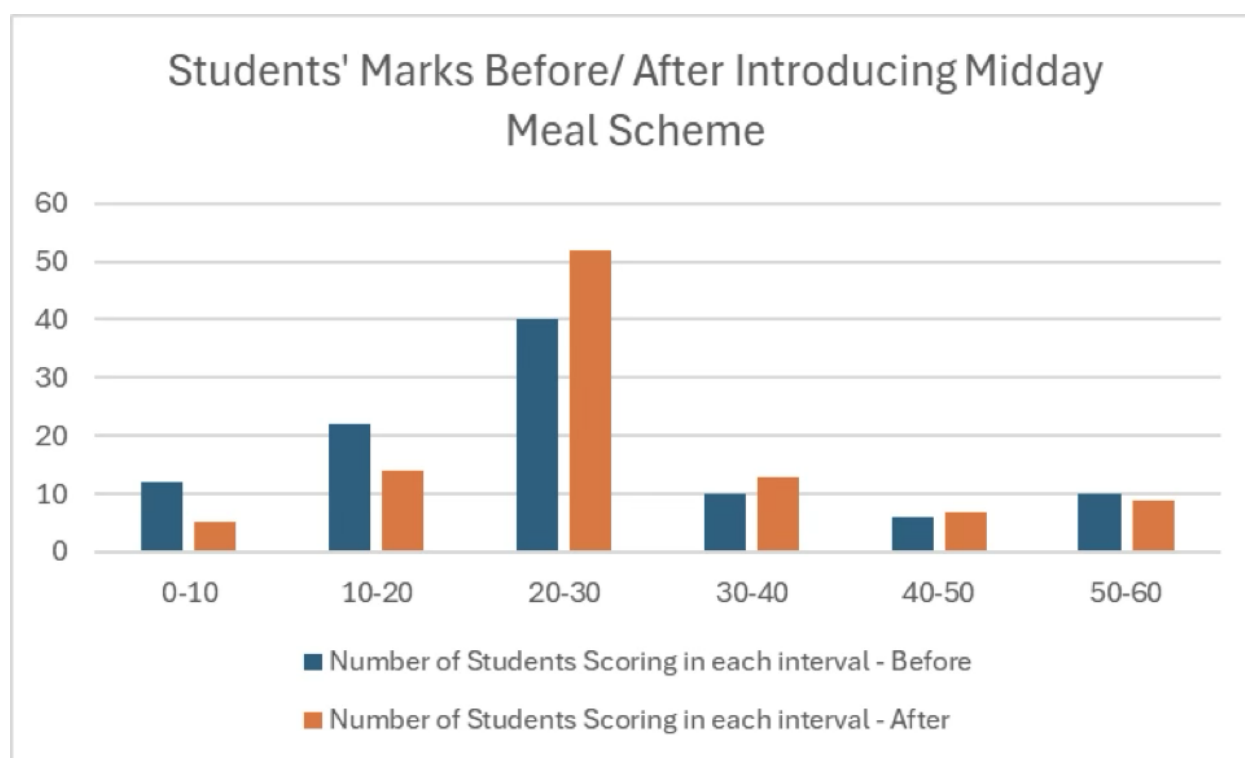
- a) Action
- b) Drama
- c) Romance
- d) Comedy

01) 100 students were asked which fruit they eat daily and their answers are shown in the bar chart below. Which is the second-most popular fruit that students mentioned?



- a) Banana
- b) Apple
- c) Orange
- d) Grapes

The Midday Meal scheme was introduced in schools to improve students' health and ability to learn better. Below chart shows some data about students' marks before and after introducing midday meal. Which statement is NOT true?



- a) Number of students getting less than 20 marks decreased
- b) Number of students getting 20-30 marks increased
- c) All students started getting high marks
- d) Number of students getting 30-60 marks did not change much.

Find the arithmetic mean of the 4 values: 10, 20, 20, 30.

- a) 20
- b) 10
- c) 20.5
- d) 22

Part C: Domain Social Science (Economics, Social Science, PPE and Psychology)

A. Read the paragraph below and answer the following questions.

In the last decade, mobile phone and internet access in India has expanded rapidly. In 2014, only about 27 percent of households reported having the internet. By 2023, this number had risen to more than 75 percent. At first glance, this seems like progress. But surveys show that many groups remain excluded. People from the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST),

and Other Backward Classes (OBC) — communities historically disadvantaged by caste hierarchies — face greater barriers to using digital technologies than dominant caste households. The digital divide is also sharper in rural areas, where only about 71 percent of households had internet access compared to 87 percent in urban areas. This shows that even as digital access grows overall, caste and location still shape who benefits from the digital world.

Adapted from Atish Padhy & Saket Panbude, “The digital wall: How caste shapes access to technology in India,” *India Development Review*, 2025.

In the passage, the *digital divide* refers to:

- a) The gap between people who have digital access and skills and those who do not
- b) The difference between old and new mobile phone models
- c) The conflict between rural and urban governments
- d) The separation between users of computers and users of phones

Which situation best illustrates the two types of digital divide described in the passage?

- a) A company in a metro city upgrades its WiFi to faster speeds
- b) An urban family easily uses multiple devices for work and study.
- c) A rural Dalit household struggles to apply for online welfare schemes because of poor connectivity.
- d) A student in a city attends online classes without difficulty.

The passage notes that internet access has risen from 27% of households in 2014 to more than 75% in 2023. Why is 75% internet access not enough to solve the digital divide?

- a) Because urban households use the internet more for entertainment.
 - b) Because the internet did not exist in India before 2014.
 - c) Because mobile phones and computers are not the same.
 - d) Because access can still differ sharply by caste and location.
-

When we remember something, we don’t usually replay a perfect video of what happened. Instead, we rebuild the memory based on what we saw, heard, or felt. We also end up filling in missing parts based on our past experiences and our expectations. This is called as reconstructive memory. Which of the following is an example of reconstructive memory?

- a) Sharad remembers every digit of pi after years of practice
- b) Lily recalls riding a roller coaster with his cousins and vividly “remembers” them screaming but later learns they never went on that ride.
- c) Meera repeats a phone number several times to keep it in her short-term memory.
- d) Neel learns to play a song on the guitar through repeated practice without needing to read the notes.

Defense mechanisms are ways the mind protects us from unpleasant thoughts or feelings. Which of the following is an example of a defense mechanism?

- a) A person forgets a painful memory from childhood.
- b) A person studies hard to improve grades.
- c) A person laughs at a joke told by a friend.
- d) A person goes to the gym to stay healthy.

A new method claims to accurately predict the ability of students' mathematical aptitude using a computational model. However, the students predicted to have high mathematical aptitude using the new method, did not do well in their math exams in their school. Hence the method shows a lack of

- a) External validity: the extent to which a study's results can be generalized to other people, settings, and times.
- b) Construct validity: the extent to which a measurement tool accurately assesses the concept
- c) Empirical validity: the degree to which a concept, theory, or measurement is supported by real-world, observed evidence
- d) Internal validity: the extent to which the findings are not due to other causes or factors.

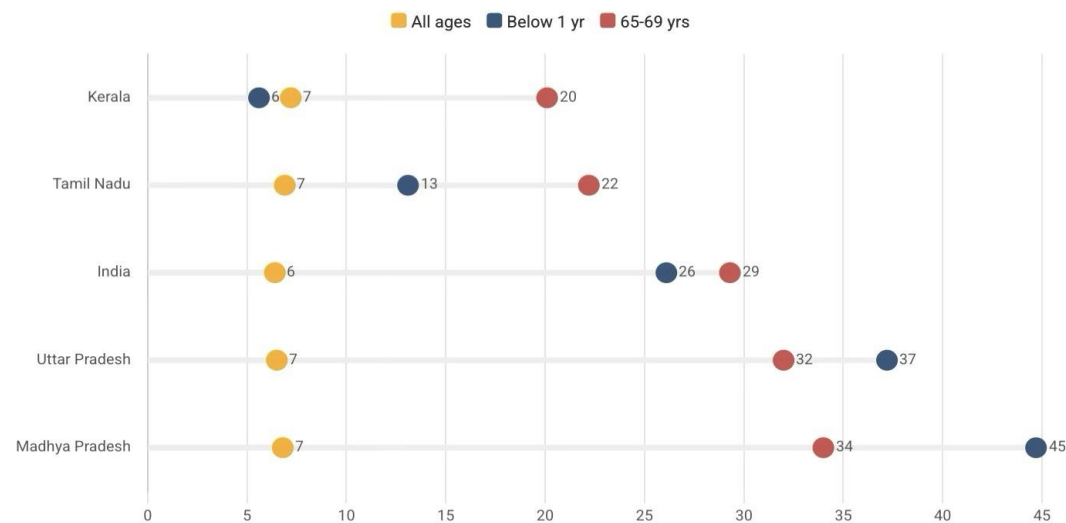
A researcher wants to find out if sleep affects how well students remember new information. He conducted an experiment where he divided students into two groups: the students in the first group slept for 8 hours before the test, and the students in the second group slept for only 4 hours before the test. The next morning, both groups take the same memory test, and their scores are compared. However, the first group took the test in the morning, while the second group took it in the evening. What could make the results misleading in this experiment?

- a) The memory test score
- b) The number of hours of sleep
- c) The time of day the test is taken
- d) The number of students in each group

The graph gives the mortality rates per 1000 persons for selected states and for India for the year 2023, for three age groups. What is the difference between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in terms of all age mortality rate?

Deaths for every 1000 persons in an age group (2023)

In poorer states, the risk of dying in infancy is greater than that of dying in old age



The Sample Registration System does not compile this data for smaller states including the north-eastern states
Source: Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2023 (Registrar General of India)

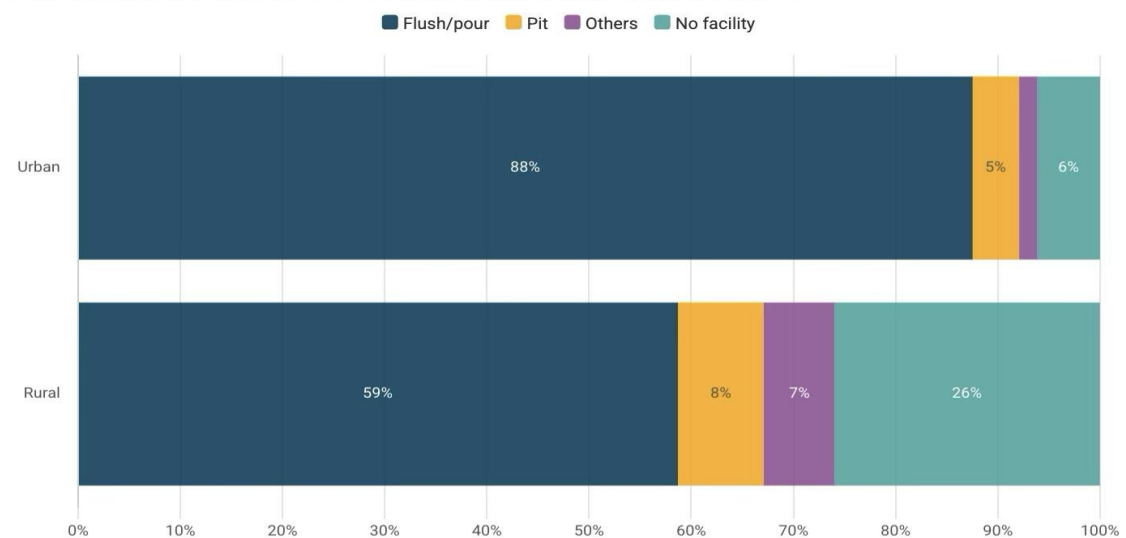
Data For India

- a) 0
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 1

The following graph presents the type of toilets by place of residence for India in 2021. Which is the least used toilet facility in the Rural areas?

Type of toilet facility by place of residence (2021)

Urban households have greater access to sanitation and higher usage of improved facilities

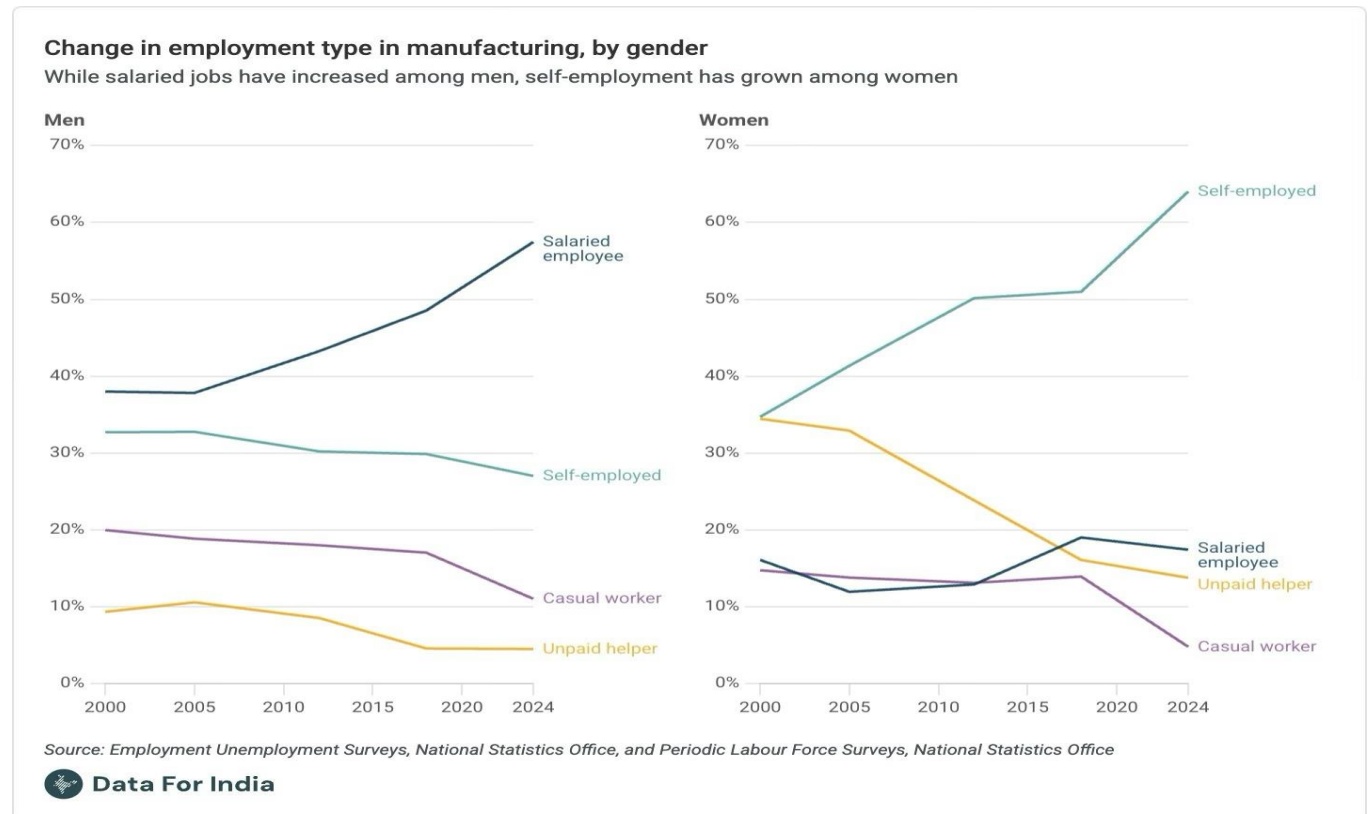


Source: National Family Health Survey (2019-21), International Institute for Population Sciences

Data For India

- a) Flush/Pour
- b) Pit
- c) Others
- d) No facility

The charts show the changing shares of employed men and women in different types of jobs in the manufacturing sector. Based on the charts, which of the following statements is false?



- a) In 2000, the majority of women workers in manufacturing were either self-employed or unpaid helpers
- b) If salaried employment is better than other types of work, then employed men are working in relatively better jobs in manufacturing now compared to the year 2000
- c) The share of women in salaried employment in manufacturing has seen a steady rise since 2000
- d) The share of men employed as casual workers in manufacturing has never risen since 2000

Domain-Humanities (English, History, and Media and Communications Studies)

A. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

I spent my first working days at the Institute putting my desk in order. In fact, the desk assigned to me was covered with correspondence, documents, files, old newspapers; until then it had obviously been a kind of clearinghouse where anything with no proper place of its own was put. My first impulse was to make a clean sweep; but then I saw there was material that could be useful for the magazine, and other things of some interest which I decided to examine at my leisure. In short, I finally removed nothing from the desk and actually added a lot of things, but not in disorder: on the contrary, I tried to keep everything tidy. Naturally, the papers that had been there before were very dusty and infected the new papers with their dirt. And since I set great store by my neatness, I had given orders to the cleaning woman not to touch anything, so each day a little more dust settled on the papers, especially on the writing materials, the stationery, the envelopes, and so on, which soon looked old and soiled and were irksome to touch.

And in the drawers it was the same story. There dusty papers from decades past were stratified, evidence of the desk's long career through various offices, public and private. No matter what I did at that desk, after a few minutes I felt impelled to go wash my hands.

My colleague Signor Avandero, on the contrary, kept his hands—delicate little hands, but with a certain nervous hardness—always clean, well groomed, the nails polished, uniformly clipped.

Source: "Smog", Italo Calvino, from *The Watcher and Other Stories*, pp 87

What is the closest meaning to the word "clearinghouse" as used in the passage?

- a) Waste-paper basket
- b) An archive
- c) A depository for things with no place
- d) A folder for loose items

What best describes the narrator of this passage?

- a) They are an official of the government, with a lot of paperwork
- b) They cannot decide between cleaning out and preserving their new desk.
- c) They take great pride in being clean and well-groomed
- d) They are impatient to clean out and empty their new desk.

Which of these statements is true, according to the passage.

- a) Signor Avandero is an older and more experienced colleague in the narrator's Institute.
- b) Neatness and cleanliness are a topic on which the narrator and their cleaning lady agree.
- c) It was important for the narrator to tidy out their new desk before starting work.
- d) The narrator's new desk had been in use for some decades before he joined the Institute.

B. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

If you asked a dolphin about water, intelligent as it is, it would likely ask, 'What is water?' The dolphin, surrounded by it, does not identify water as a separate thing, nor does it understand its importance. This is how it is with two forgotten language arts: listening and speaking. They are so firmly interwoven in so many facets of our lives that we seldom think about them. We take them for granted. It's time to alter that and put listening and speaking at the forefront of the minds of teachers, to actively impart to students these abilities, because they underpin so much of human interaction.

What must our graduates be able to perform successfully, regardless of their field? I would suggest that the answer is: to communicate effectively. What exactly does communicating in the workplace entail? As adults on the job, we devote three-quarters of our time to listening and speaking. That is sufficient rationale for focused efforts to train students to master these forgotten arts.

I prefer using the phrase 'listening and speaking' rather than the more common 'speaking and listening' in the discussion of standards. I am turning the words around to emphasise that listening is the most important language art in life and education.

Teaching students the importance of civic duty is a challenge because what they see happening around them is often uncivil. Teaching public policy inevitably leads to conversations about polarising issues: gender, caste, religion, and climate change, for instance. It is difficult to identify models for debates that are civil and constructive on these topics. What we see on television and social media is less discussion and more polemics, which make for wonderful theatre and draw young people, but do little to lead them towards a better understanding.

This trend must be reversed at some place; that place should be our classrooms, where you teach listening and speaking skills to separate facts from assumptions, construct fair counterarguments, and reach evidence-based judgments.

How would you categorize this article?

- a) News story.
- b) Press Release.
- c) Opinion.
- d) Results of a survey.

What does the author imply about debates on television?

- a) Television should avoid coverage of polarizing issues like religion and caste.
- b) Participants in debates should work harder to find solutions to problems.
- c) Listening means never contradicting someone else's argument.
- d) Constant interruptions make it impossible to absorb someone's argument.

Which statement mirrors the main point of the author?

- a) Teachers should encourage students to answer questions based on their assumptions.
- b) Teachers should urge students to listen closely to each other and respond thoughtfully in a classroom.
- c) Teachers should prompt students to watch debates on television and take sides on every issue.
- d) Teachers should ask students to take detailed notes on each lecture to prove that they are listening carefully.

C. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Homo habilis/rudolfensis appears in the fossil record at broadly the same time as the first stone tools, known as the Oldowan culture. These tools were flakes removed from nodules, and the nodule remnants, which are referred to as cores. However, the earliest known stone tools pre-date the earliest known *Homo habilis* fossils and hence they may have also been made by one or more types of australopiths. While the stone nodules, flakes and cores were likely used for a variety of tasks, including cutting plants and pounding roots, their key role was the removal of meat, fat and marrow from animal carcasses, as evident from cut marks and distinctive fractures on the bones from archaeological sites. The carcasses had most likely been scavenged from carnivore kills, with the sharp flakes being critical for quick access in the face of competing scavengers such as hyenas and vultures. Scavenging may have started by picking over carcasses after the hyenas and vultures had finished and developed into aggressive scavenging by throwing rocks and shouting to chase off those competitors before they had taken the best bits of meat and fat. The open savannah would have been a dangerous place, requiring *Homo habilis* to live and work in larger groups than its forest-dwelling ancestors to defend themselves from predators and to work cooperatively when scavenging, gathering plant foods and collecting stone nodules. The need to live in larger groups has been invoked as a selective pressure for brain enlargement: to provide the cognitive skills for negotiating the complexities of social life, including selecting mates and food sharing. Such brain growth would have been fuelled by the relatively high calorific return from meat, marrow and fat, while enhanced cognition from that larger brain would have facilitated learning how to knap nodules to make the required flakes. The resulting positive feedback loop between group size, technology, diet, brain size and cognitive ability may have been critical for the incipient stages of language.

What were stone nodules, flakes and cores primarily used for?

- a) Cutting plants and pounding roots
- b) Removal of marrow
- c) Making spearheads for hunting
- d) All of the above

What are the factors in the feedback loop that contributed to the development of language?

- a) Brain size and cognitive ability
- b) Group size and technology
- c) Diet
- d) All of the above

Why did *Homohabilis* live and work in large groups?

- a) To survive in the savannah
- b) To defend themselves from predators
- c) To cooperatively collect plant foods and stone nodules
- d) All of the above

Living in larger groups increased brains size because

- a) Greater social skills were needed for mating and sharing food
- b) Of more nutrition and meat eating
- c) Human evolution in the savannah
- d) All of the above

Domain Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, ESS, and Information Science)

The average annual temperature of a region rose from 24.0°C in 1980 to 26.0°C in 2020. What is the average increase in temperature per decade?

- a) 0.25°C
- b) 0.5°C
- c) 0.05°C
- d) 2.0°C

A car travels the first half of its journey at 40 kmph and the second half at 60 kmph. What is the average speed of the car (total distance/total time)?

- a) 52 kmph
- b) 50 kmph
- c) 48 kmph
- d) 60 kmph

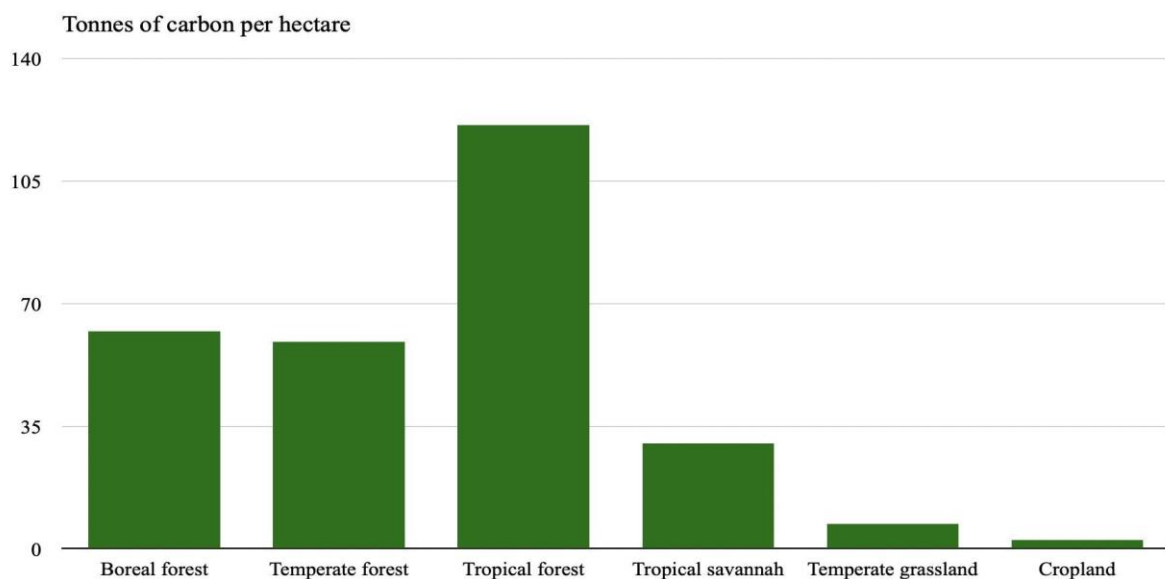
In a certain unfair six-sided die, with sides numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, the probability of rolling an even number is twice as large as the probability of rolling an odd number. Each even number is equally likely, and each odd number is equally likely. What is the probability of rolling a 1?

- a) $\frac{1}{6}$
- b) $\frac{1}{9}$
- c) $\frac{1}{12}$
- d) $\frac{1}{36}$

The average of six numbers is 50. Which of the following is guaranteed to be true?

- a) At least one number is bigger than 50.
- b) If one of the numbers is less than 50, then one of the other numbers must be greater than 50.
- c) Three of the numbers are greater than or equal to 50, and three are less than or equal to 50.
- d) All of the above

The bar graph below shows carbon storage (tonnes of carbon per hectare) across different ecosystems.



Source: IPCC, 2000

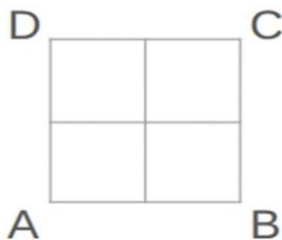
How many times more carbon does a tropical forest store per hectare compared to a boreal forest?

- a) About 2 times more
- b) About 12 times more
- c) About 30 times more
- d) About 60 times more

You are making a large idli that is twice the radius and twice the height of a regular idli. Assuming idlis are shaped like cylinders, how many regular idlis worth of batter will you need to make one large idli? (Recall that the volume of a cylinder with radius r and height h is $\pi r^2 h$)

- a) 2
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 8

In the diagram below, to move from point A to point C, you can only move up or right. How many different paths lead from point A to point C?



- a) 4
- b) 5
- c) 6
- d) 8

The biological oxygen demand (BOD) of some wastewater is 250 mg/L. After proper treatment BOD improves to 20 mg/L. By what percentage has the BOD reduced after treatment?

- a) 85%
- b) 80%
- c) 92%
- d) 95%

A mouse and a bear are stranded on a floating iceberg on a very cold day. Which animal will lose heat faster and why? Choose the correct option below.

- a) The mouse, because it has a lower metabolic rate
- b) The mouse, because it has a higher surface area to volume ratio
- c) The bear, because it has a larger internal organs
- d) The bear because it has higher surface area to volume ratio

Six people — **P, Q, R, S, T, U** — sit around a round table, all facing the center. The following constraints apply:

- i. P sits to the immediate left of Q. (Clockwise neighbor of Q.)
- ii. R is not next to Q.
- iii. S sits directly opposite P.

Which of the following statements is **impossible** under these rules?

- a) R sits between T and U.
- b) U sits next to S.
- c) U is opposite Q.
- d) T sits next to Q.