

QUESTION PAPER

SECTION A — SA (Numerical Answer Type)

1. A man starts walking from point A to point B at 4 km/hr. After 30 minutes, a woman starts from point A at 6 km/hr. If the woman reaches point B 20 minutes earlier than the man, then the distance between A and B in km is _____.

2. Let ABCD be a cyclic quadrilateral with $AB = 15$, $BC = 20$, $CD = 24$ and $AC = 25$. Then AD equals _____.

3. Ram purchased 3 oranges at Rs. 20 each and 5 mangoes at Rs. 38 each and then sold them by offering discounts of 25% and 20% on the fixed marked prices of oranges and mangoes, respectively. If he earned a profit of 50% on selling the oranges alone, and a total profit of 32% on selling all the fruits, then the marked price of each mango was _____.

4. Let S denote an arithmetic progression whose first term is either 132 or 158, and the common difference is an even integer less than 10. If the n th term of S is 174, then the number of possible distinct values of n is _____.

5. If x, y are real numbers and the equations $x^2 - 12x + 35 = 0$ and $x^2 + ax + 105 = 0$ have at least one common root, then the minimum possible value of $y^2 + 4y - 5a$ is _____.

6. Five friends A, B, C, D, and E go on a trip together. Each of them likes at least one of the following three activities: Countryside Sightseeing, Shopping, and Adventure Sports, such that:

- No two friends like exactly the same set of activities.
- A, B and E like exactly two activities each.
- D likes only Countryside Sightseeing.
- C likes more number of activities compared to D.

The number of friends that like Countryside Sightseeing is _____.

7. Let

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1/a & 1/b & 1/c \\ 1/a^2 & 1/b^2 & 1/c^2 \\ a & b & c \end{bmatrix}$$

]

where a , b and c are numbers such that $a + b + c = 0$ and $abc \neq 0$. If $\det M = 0$, then the maximum possible value of $\left[\frac{a^2+b^2}{c^2}\right]$ is _____.

8. The number of ways in which three distinct integers can be chosen from the set $\{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ such that their product is divisible by 4, is _____.

9. The remainder when $(7^{103} + 7^{101})$ is divided by 9 is _____.

10. If x is an integer such that

[

$$\frac{|x+6|-|x-3|}{\sqrt{100-x^3}} \geq 0,$$

]

then the number of possible values of x is _____.

11. The Celsius scale of temperature can be converted to Fahrenheit scale using the relationship

[

$$F = 1.8C + 32,$$

]

where F and C are temperatures recorded in degrees Fahrenheit and Celsius, respectively.

Ajay noted down the temperature of a chemical reaction as F degrees Fahrenheit but reported it as C degrees Celsius by mistake. If this led to a recording of the temperature that was 144% higher than the actual temperature in Celsius scale, then F equals _____.

12. Five friends A, B, C, D, and E go on a trip together. Each of them likes at least one of the following three activities: Countryside Sightseeing, Shopping, and Adventure Sports, such that:

- No two friends like exactly the same set of activities.
- A, B and E like exactly two activities each.
- D likes only Countryside Sightseeing.
- C likes more number of activities compared to D.

The number of ways in which a pair of friends can be chosen for a trip from those who like Adventure Sports is _____.

13. Five friends A, B, C, D, and E go on a trip together. Each of them likes at least one of the following three activities: Countryside Sightseeing, Shopping, and Adventure Sports, such that:

- No two friends like exactly the same set of activities.
- A, B and E like exactly two activities each.
- D likes only Countryside Sightseeing.

- C likes more number of activities compared to D.

The number of friends who like both Shopping and Adventure Sports is _____.

14. In a company, initially the ratio of the foreign and domestic workers was 5 : 8. When some foreign and 12 domestic workers left the company, this ratio became 2 : 3. Later, when 10 more foreign workers were replaced by 10 new domestic workers, this ratio became 3 : 7. The initial number of domestic workers in the company was _____.

15. Savitri borrowed 10,000 rupees from a bank for a period of two years at a fixed interest rate of 10% per annum, compounded semi-annually, and paid back 5,025 rupees at the end of first year. Then, the amount, in rupees, to be paid at the end of second year is _____.

SECTION B — MCQ

1. Painter A can paint a building in 12 days while Painter B can paint it in 16 days. If A and B work on alternate days, and A starts the work on the first day, then the number of days required to paint the building is:

- (a) $13\frac{1}{2}$
- (b) $13\frac{2}{3}$
- (c) $13\frac{3}{4}$
- (d) $7\frac{1}{2}$

2. Let ABCD be a rectangle with AB = 72 cm and BC = 30 cm. A circle passing through points A and C cuts the side AB at P such that AP = 56 cm. The radius, in cm, of the circle is:

- (a) $\frac{220}{5}$
- (b) $\frac{441}{10}$
- (c) $\frac{216}{5}$
- (d) $\frac{221}{5}$

3. The number of values k can take such that

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} x^4 + kx^3 + (3k-4)x^2 + 2(k-1)x - 4 \\ \end{array} \right]$$

can be expressed as a product of two quadratic polynomials,

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} x^2 + px + 2 \\ \end{array} \right]$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^2+qx-2, \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

where p and q are real, is:

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

4.The number of ways in which coins of denominations of rupees 2, 5 and 10 can be combined to make a value of rupees 50 is:

- (a) 21
- (b) 20
- (c) 10
- (d) 19

5.A person walks one lap along a circle at a speed v. Thereafter, he runs one lap along the boundary of the largest square that can be inscribed in the circle at a speed 3v. The ratio of the time he walks to the time he runs is:

- (a) $(\frac{3\pi}{2\sqrt{2}})$
- (b) $(\frac{3\pi}{4\sqrt{2}})$
- (c) $(\frac{4\pi}{3\sqrt{2}})$
- (d) $(\frac{12}{\pi})$

6.If

$$\begin{bmatrix} A= \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1&1\\ 0&1 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

then the determinant of

$$\begin{bmatrix} A+A^2+A^3+\cdots+A^{13} \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

is:

- (a) 169
- (b) 13
- (c) 26
- (d) 91

7. Gita starts from point A and walks 1000 m east. She then walks 800 m north, followed by 640 m west and 512 m south, reaching point B. After this, she continues moving in the same cyclic order: east, north, west, south, with each successive movement 20% shorter than the previous one. After infinitely many such moves, approximately how far in meters will Gita be from her starting point A?

- (a) 765
- (b) 800
- (c) 711
- (d) 781

8. If a, b, and c are three prime numbers such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \\ abc=23(a+b+c), \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

then the maximum possible value of $a + b - c$ is:

- (a) 28
- (b) 25
- (c) 33
- (d) 46

9. A certain number of people contributed to a charity. The first person contributed one rupee. The rule for contribution was that the next person would contribute double the amount already raised. If the total money raised for the charity was 2187 rupees, then the number of people who contributed to the charity is:

- (a) 7
- (b) 6
- (c) 9
- (d) 8

10. A circle of non-zero radius has origin as its centre. If it passes through the point of intersection of two curves

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^2 = 4ay \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} y^2 = 4ax, \end{bmatrix}$$

then its equation is:

- (a) $(x^2 + y^2 = 4a^2)$
- (b) $(x^2 + y^2 = 16a^2)$
- (c) $(x^2 + y^2 = 32a^2)$
- (d) $(x^2 + y^2 = a^2)$

11. If m is a positive integer, then the values of k for which $6m + k$ cannot be a perfect square are:

- (a) 3 and 4
- (b) 1, 2 and 5
- (c) 2 and 5
- (d) 1 and 5

12. Let $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 180\}$. Define A as the set of all multiples of 4 in S , B as the set of all multiples of 6 in S , and C as the set of all multiples of 9 in S . The number of elements in S that belong to exactly one of A, B, C is:

- (a) 44
- (b) 48
- (c) 50
- (d) 40

13. The approximate value of the expression

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2\log_3(3^n) - \log_3(n^2 + 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

for a sufficiently large n is:

- (a) 3
- (b) 1
- (c) 2
- (d) $(2 - \log_3 2)$

14. The number of integer solutions (x, y) of the inequality

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^2 + y^2 \leq 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

is:

- (a) 36
- (b) 37
- (c) 12
- (d) 13

15. If x is a real number such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \max(\min(x, 2-x), x-4, 2x-8) = x-3, \end{bmatrix}$$

then the number of possible values of x is:

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

16. Positive reals x, y satisfy $x \neq y$ and

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{x^2 + y^2}{xy} = k. \end{bmatrix}$$

If replacing x by $x+y$ and y by $|x-y|$ leaves the value of k unchanged, then k equals:

- (a) $2\sqrt{2}$
- (b) 2
- (c) $\sqrt{2}$
- (d) 1

17. Two locations A and B are at diametrically opposite ends of a circular track. Rekha starts running along the track from location A in the clockwise direction. Sajal starts running simultaneously along the track in the anticlockwise direction from location B. If the length of the circular track is 14 km, and the speeds of Rekha and Sajal are in the ratio 5 : 2, then the distance, in km, travelled by Rekha, when they meet at location B for the first time, is:

- (a) 7
- (b) 21
- (c) 49
- (d) 35

18. The number of integers x such that

$$[1 \leq x \leq 10^7]$$

and

$$[\gcd(x, 10^7) = 10^3]$$

is:

- (a) 3000
- (b) 2000
- (c) 4000
- (d) 5000

19. Let the circle

$$[x^2 + y^2 = 2\alpha x + 2\beta y]$$

intersect the x -axis at point $A(\alpha, 0)$ and y -axis at point $B(0, \beta)$, where $\alpha\beta \neq 0$. If the point $C(\gamma, \delta)$ lies on the chord AB , then

$$[\frac{\alpha + \gamma}{\beta} + \frac{\beta + \delta}{\alpha}]$$

equals:

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

20.In a class, 25% of all students read news from the Internet. Moreover, 45% of all students read news from printed newspapers. Further, 20% of all students read news from both the Internet and printed newspaper and they do not play video games. It is also known that 30% of the students who do not read news play video games. The minimum percentage of students who do not play video games is:

- (a) 35 percent
- (b) 55 percent
- (c) 25 percent
- (d) 45 percent

21.The possible values of x in the set $\{1, 5, 13\}$ for which the mean of eight observations

5, 8, $3x + 2$, 15, 27, 29, 36, $5x - 2$

equals their median are:

- (a) only 13
- (b) 5 and 13
- (c) only 1
- (d) only 5

22.Three dice are thrown simultaneously and the sum of the three numbers appearing on the top faces of the dice is found to be 10. The probability that these three numbers are distinct is:

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

23.The equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2^x - x^2 = 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

has:

- (a) exactly two real solutions
- (b) exactly three real solutions
- (c) exactly one real solution
- (d) no real solution

24.If

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \log_{18} 24 = x, \\ \end{array} \right]$$

then

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \log_{96} 108 \\ \end{array} \right]$$

equals:

- (a) $\left(\frac{x+7}{9x-2}\right)$
- (b) $\left(\frac{3x+3}{3x+2}\right)$
- (c) $\left(\frac{x+2}{7x-3}\right)$
- (d) $\left(\frac{3x+2}{3x+1}\right)$

25. A fair die is rolled repeatedly. The probability that the cumulative sum is at least 17 in the third trial is:

- (a) $1/27$
- (b) $1/108$
- (c) $7/216$
- (d) $1/54$

DIET PLAN — QUESTIONS 26–30

A nutritionist is designing a daily diet plan of a person using five food items: Milk, Spinach, Almonds, Oats, and Rice.

The Minimum Daily Requirement (MDR) of the nutrients Calcium, Iron and Protein should be 1100 mg, 15 mg, and 40 g, respectively. The following table gives nutrient content per serving of each food item.

Each serving provides a certain percentage of the MDR. For example, one serving of milk satisfies 20% of MDR of Protein. Further, the number of servings of any food item should be a whole number.

26. When one serving of each of the five items is included in the diet plan, the nutrient with the least percentage of MDR satisfied is:

- (a) Calcium with 70% MDR
- (b) Calcium with 65% MDR

- (c) Protein with 65% MDR
- (d) Protein with 70% MDR

27. If two servings of Milk are part of the daily diet plan, then the minimum number of servings of any other single item that can satisfy the MDR of all three nutrients is:

- (a) 5
- (b) 4
- (c) 6
- (d) 7

28. The number of food items that can satisfy at least 15% of the MDR for at least two nutrients in one serving is:

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

29. If only x servings of Milk and y servings of Rice are included in the diet plan, then the minimum value of $x + y$ that will satisfy the MDR of all three nutrients is:

- (a) 15
- (b) 24
- (c) 17
- (d) 22

30. The food item(s) that can satisfy at least half of the MDR for all the three nutrients using up to seven servings of that single item alone is:

- (a) Only Almonds and Spinach
 - (b) Only Almonds, Spinach, and Oats
 - (c) Only Almonds
 - (d) Only Almonds and Oats
-

SECTION C — VERBAL ABILITY

Reading Comprehension — Passage 1

Read the following passage and choose the answer that is closest to each of the questions that are based on the passage.

Who has not often observed two dogs, members of the same household, communicating with each other? Pug and Gyp were two animals that belonged to the family where I spent a summer vacation. They thought much of each other when romping together in the yard, or in foraging the neighbouring woods and fields for rabbits and groundhogs. Never would they start out on an expedition for game without having previously laid their plans. It was interesting and amusing to watch them. They would bring their heads into close contiguity, remaining in this position for two or three minutes, when, by mutual consent, they would separate, look each other in the eyes, and then start off in different directions for the scene of their projected enterprise. Times out of number I have observed such behaviour and have always discovered that they meant something of the kind. There were no audible utterances, no visible gestures, yet there was an interchange of ideas. Through the medium of the eye were the thoughts conveyed. It was spirit speaking directly to spirit, conveying by a single glance of the eye thoughts which whole volumes would fail to express.

Each species of animal has its own dialect. Yet there is another language, a sort of animal lingua franca, which is common to all. A cry of warning, no matter from what bird or animal it emanates, is understood by them all, as is well known to many a sportsman who has lost his only chance of a shot by reason of an impertinent crow, jay or magpie which has espied him, and has given its cry of alarm. There is not a bird of garden or orchard, or a fowl of the barnyard or door-side, that does not understand the peculiar cry of the rooster when a hawk is seen careering overhead or perched upon the summit of a nearby tree. With one accord they flee to their coverts, and there remain until the danger is past.

No more quarrelsome and pugnacious species of bird exists than the English sparrow. It appropriates every available locality for nesting purposes, and our native species are driven to the necessity of fighting for their rights, or of seeking quarters in the rural districts which these birds do not infect. Thus, it is that many a useful robin, bluebird or martin is driven from our midst. Many have witnessed encounters between these birds and the robins. The author once saw a contest between a pair of sparrows and a pair of robins for the possession of a certain tree that grew in his yard. Now the robin, single-handed, is more than a match for a sparrow.

In the engagement referred to, the robins were getting the better of the sparrows, which the latter were not slow in perceiving. Instantly the sparrows set up the wild, ear-piercing harangue for which they are peculiarly noted, when more than a score of friends from the immediate vicinity gathered to their assistance. But the war cry which they sounded not only summoned help to their standard, but it was equally understood by all the other birds of the neighbourhood, who flocked to the defence of their brethren against the alien. The battle waged warm and fiercely for some minutes, when the sparrows were forced to seek safety in retreat.

1. According to the passage, the English sparrow is quarrelsome, pugnacious and it:

- (a) is as useful as a robin, bluebird or martin.
- (b) seeks quarters in the rural districts which other birds do not infect.
- (c) occupies whatever space it can find to bring up its young ones.
- (d) is a native species driven to fight for its rights.

2.The term *lingua franca* refers to a language which:

- (a) is the common one for people with different native languages.
- (b) humans cannot learn or understand.
- (c) is widely spoken in France.
- (d) is used by all birds and animals to communicate within their species.

3.The author had observed the dogs' interchange of ideas several times and felt that they communicated:

- (a) with an understanding beyond words and sounds.
- (b) via sounds inaudible to humans and gestures that one could not understand.
- (c) with their heads in close contiguity for two or three minutes.
- (d) the direction each dog would take and what each would do.

4.The narrator observed that the two dogs, Pug and Gyp, that belonged to the family:

- (a) communicated with each other about everything.
- (b) played with each other and hunted together.
- (c) romped and foraged together in the yard.
- (d) thought much about each other throughout the day.

5.The war between the robins and the sparrows ended when:

- (a) the robins who were getting the better of the two parties also got help from several other birds.
- (b) the sparrows communicated with an ear-piercing harangue for which they are particularly noted.
- (c) the brethren of the sparrow flocked to the defence against the alien.
- (d) more than a score of robins in the immediate vicinity chased away the sparrows.

6.The cry of warning from a bird or animal:

- (a) is distinct enough for several species to interpret correctly.
- (b) is an expression of fear of humans and predators.
- (c) makes the sportsman realise that he has lost his only chance of a shot.
- (d) could be that of a dog, crow, jay or magpie.

Reading Comprehension — Passage 2

Read the following passage and choose the answer that is closest to each of the questions that are based on the passage.

Anger can be a useful emotion. It can play a key role in building a strong individual psyche, as also a just society. But the algohacking of our brains to keep them in a state of incessant anger? That's pure poison. Some companies and individuals draw colossal profits from it, but at terrible cost to general well-being. That rage bait has been declared Oxford English Dictionary's word of 2025 is indicative of the spread of this poison. In 2024, it was brain rot that came on top. Both speak of the same diseased online ecosystem. All of this is bad enough for adults, but what it's doing to children is a great nightmare.

Specifically, rage bait refers to online content designed to elicit anger or outrage. Once tech platforms figured out how this kind of content spirals user engagement, the algorithms got tweaked to feed us more and more of the same, activating a diabolical incentive structure of hate. Of course, in this swamp, reality is completely distorted. You could take any major event of recent times as an example and the difference between your newspaper's reportage and your online feed would be dramatic. Reading responsible accounts of pollution, a terror attack, an election result etc. would give you food for thought. On social media, you would be targeted with stuff doctored to send you into troll mode. If you block the accounts that most inflame you, you deprive them of your attention, you refuse to buy the hate they are selling. Blocking even hurts them with the algorithm. David did defeat Goliath. And make no mistake, this is a civilisational battle. We must fight against the atrophy of our attention, its capture by the most terrible types of things that human nature can be drawn to, and to regain our sense and sensibility.

7.The writer states all of the following except:

- (a) Constant anger has a function in certain situations.
- (b) Anger has been used by companies to gain monetary benefits.
- (c) Anger has no useful purpose as it has no outcome.
- (d) Misuse of anger can negatively impact general wellbeing.

8.The reference to David and Goliath suggests that:

- (a) the seemingly weak can succeed in unequal fights.
- (b) actions that seem unnecessary can be successful.
- (c) if powerful forces are defeated, they will revive.
- (d) resistance to large negative forces fails.

9.The phrase "a civilisational battle" could best be interpreted as a conflict that affects:

- (a) a battle of classes within society.
- (b) the existential foundations of a society.
- (c) a change into a new and better type of society.
- (d) the outward forms of social beliefs and behaviour.

10.According to the author, rage bait works when:

- (a) tech platforms deliberately supply distorted content that incentivises hate.
- (b) users actively chase news content that conforms to their political biases.
- (c) reading responsible accounts of pollution, terror or elections provides social media users food for thought.
- (d) social media content fuels public anger to bring about constructive social change.

11. The author is of the opinion that:

- (a) reading responsible media reports promotes thoughtfulness.
- (b) the reaction of users cannot be controlled by media.
- (c) social media reports more widely and responsibly.
- (d) the response of users does not vary according to the media consumed.

12. The rage bait problem can be addressed by:

- (a) consuming more news on social media.
 - (b) alghacking content that is designed to produce anger.
 - (c) turning one's attention more closely to hateful propaganda.
 - (d) blocking sites that propagate inflammatory content.
-

Vocabulary and Usage

13. We had tried so hard to keep Maya's birthday party a surprise, but at the last minute someone _____.

- (a) played cat and mouse with her
- (b) sent the cat out of the house
- (c) let the cat out of the bag
- (d) set the cat among the pigeons

14. The philosophy professor confused his students with a complex ethical problem; Meera was the only one who understood it and gave a/an _____ response.

- (a) obsequious
- (b) didactic
- (c) hirsute
- (d) plausible

15. My roommate either hosts or attends parties every other day _____.

- (a) as she is very egregious
- (b) as she is very gracious

- (c) as she is very garrulous
- (d) as she is very gregarious

16. The rich businessman bought a luxury duplex apartment that must have cost a/an_____.

- (a) large bushelful
- (b) incredulous bombshell
- (c) entire legacy
- (d) arm and a leg

17. The journal published unverified details about the company's lack of business_____.

- (a) and this report on the business was callous
- (b) and this report on the business was calamitous
- (c) and this report on the business was careless
- (d) and this report on the business was calumnious

18. While travelling on the highway my car had a flat tyre; to_____, it started to rain and I got drenched.

- (a) perplex me further
- (b) add to my complexities
- (c) make matters worse
- (d) befuddle me

19. When the young man's father had a heart attack, the whole family panicked; he was the only one who _____ and immediately sent for an ambulance.

- (a) remained woke
- (b) got his cool
- (c) got reasonable
- (d) kept his head

Grammar and Sentence Correction

20. Even as the team's die-hard fans lost all hopes of a win, **alone came the last batsman and surpassed them** with three sixes in a row, leading the team to its victory.

- (a) alone came the last batsman and superannuated
- (b) along came the last batsman and superannuated
- (c) along came the last batsman and surprised
- (d) alone came the last batsman and surprised

21.Don't get mad at me. I did not invite a thousand people to our wedding. All I did was **creating a link and sendd it**.

- (a) created a link and sent it
- (b) create a link and send it
- (c) to create a link and sent it
- (d) creating a link and sending it

22.Although she has not been at her best this year, **imagine that she would win this match against the reigning champion**, no one would doubt her calibre as a sportsperson.

- (a) should she be winning this match against
- (b) should she win this match against
- (c) imagine if she win this match against
- (d) imagine that she is winning this match against

23.The judge has **disposed himself from** the case because of his prior association with the company.

- (a) recouped
- (b) refrained
- (c) recused
- (d) recanted

24.

The college now has a **creator** to help students with their personal as well as academic challenges.

- (a) controller
- (b) councilor
- (c) consoler
- (d) counsellor

Paragraph Completion

25.

Till recently, weight-loss drugs have been an elite privilege, creating a class system among those battling obesity and diabetes and setting new aspirational benchmarks for a healthy life. Manufacturers have now lowered their prices to tap into a booming health-conscious market in India. Despite repeated clarification that the efficacy of the drug is co-dependent on diet, lifestyle

corrections, fitness routines and, most importantly, baseline fitness and health, the drug is seen as manna from heaven.

_____. This leads to the individual surrendering to a false sense of well-being.

- (a) Weight loss is a path to thinness, a healthier lifestyle and a more attractive image.
- (b) Weight loss drugs have allowed celebrities to parade their thin age-defying bodies.
- (c) The once-a-week jab is seen as a convenience obviating the need for any other action.
- (d) This creates a false sense of complacency about the drugs notwithstanding their side-effects.

26.

Tech companies are spending billions to build data centres that power AI systems for growth and security. But data centres consume huge amounts of electricity, which has raised the cost of electricity for those living near the data centres. Some tech giants are now saying they will seek to pay not just for the energy their data centres use, but also to cover the costs of updating and adding necessary electricity to the grid.

_____.

- (a) This way the anger of the public will not be directed at the tech companies.
- (b) This way the additional electricity costs will not be passed on to other local consumers.
- (c) Governments should bear the additional electricity costs, as AI will provide greater security.
- (d) Not all tech companies will be able to afford the additional electricity costs.

27.

Writing has long been a primary tool for thinking. _____

The articulation of thought, a foundational human skill, risks atrophy due to the deployment of AI. 'Help' from AI is a gentle, persistent pressure removing idiosyncrasies and pushing writers towards a standardised, middle-of-the-road voice. In a manner of speaking, the originality of the writer's voice is lost. Hence, the unique signature of the writer is eroded by an algorithm.

- (a) For writers, the help provided by AI is essential for the formation of lucid thoughts.
- (b) Without human effort, however, difficult concepts cannot be easily communicated to the reader.
- (c) Thinking is a process expressed best by smooth, frictionless prose assisted by AI.
- (d) When that process is delegated to an outside agency, thinking itself becomes superficial.

28.

With access to content and streaming video platforms among Indian viewers increasing, producers and creators seem to be taking fewer risks. Streaming service subscribers in India

have traditionally appreciated the craft, acting, and storytelling of some exceptional videos on platforms like Netflix and HBO. _____

Driven by algorithms and a tendency to replicate templates that have worked in the past, Indian streamers increasingly favour star-led shows and films that promise safety over experimentation. Hence 2025 had fewer standout originals.

- (a) Since a large proportion of OTT viewers in India use smartphones to view videos, the content has to be discerning.
 - (b) Now that smartphones are commonplace, viewing videos is no longer part of the shared and family time.
 - (c) Yet, this past year, Indian producers have gravitated towards content that entertains a wider section of viewers.
 - (d) Without a discerning viewership, Indian producers have had to use social media to promote and sell their stories.
-

Fill in the Blanks

29.

Even as technology threatens to alter medicine_____, doctors work with the conviction that they are_____ in matters of prognosis and treatment. History, however, shows that those most invested in their own _____ are rarely the best judges of their own irreplaceability.

- (a) incredibly; reliable; concerns
- (b) irrevocably; indispensable; survival
- (c) invaluable; opportunistic; determination
- (d) unimaginably; immutable; subculture

30.

A useful definition for anger can be found in Aristotle, which is also the starting point for an established Western_____of reflection. Here, anger is a response to _____damage to something or someone one cares about, and a damage that the angry person believes to have been_____inflicted.

- (a) philosophy; consequential; unsuspectingly
- (b) tradition; significant; wrongfully
- (c) habit; wilful; erroneously
- (d) culture; universal; uncannily

31.

The _____ of the uneducated masses can be described as a _____ faith that believes in fake Godmen based on instinct or emotion rather than on any _____ premise.

- (a) credulity; groundless; objective
- (b) indifference; strong; obvious
- (c) hysteria; jingoistic; logical
- (d) credibility; faulty; possible

32.

In the hothouse _____ of social media, you are filled with envy when you scroll through photos of exotic _____ and gleaming houses, but you reassure yourself that only _____ people want these things – your humble home is all that you really want.

- (a) madness; destinations; embarrassing
- (b) excitement; locations; overachieving
- (c) atmosphere; vacations; superficial
- (d) climate; vistas; ordinary

33.

The newly appointed professor found it hard to _____ the students who were _____ and _____ to the topics discussed during lectures.

- (a) encourage; withdrawn; indifferent
- (b) engage; deficient; diffident
- (c) inspire; belligerent; uninstructed
- (d) enthuse; difficult; undisciplined

34.

Some philosophers have used a _____ of bees as a transparent metaphor for modern _____. In the hive, they argue, each bee works for its own personal gain, every profession has its own vulnerabilities; and everyone _____ the passions of others.

- (a) conglomeration; armies; annihilates
- (b) collection; socialism; admits
- (c) community; societies; exploits
- (d) congregation; objectivity; rejects

Conversation Analysis

Read the following transcript and choose the answer that is closest to each of the questions that are based on the transcript.

Host: We often think of Ancient Egypt as a product of divine kingship, but you argue it was a product of logistical necessity. How did the geography of the Nile dictate Egypt's economic and political structure?

Guest: The Nile is a unique geographical corridor. Unlike the Mesopotamian rivers, which were unpredictable, the Nile flooded with remarkable regularity. This created a specific "if-then" logic for administration. If the flood reached 'X' height, you would have an abundance of grain; if it reached 'Y', you faced famine and so forth. This correlation between the flood level and agrarian yield enabled the first high-level systemic inferencing in history. A Nilometer was used to measure the Nile's water levels and helped officials forecast harvest quality, anticipate famine or abundance, and calculate tax levies based on the flood height, often considered ideal at 16 cubits.

Host: You also stated that the geography and the geometry created a centralized "logic-gate" in the operation of the state. Am I correct?

Guest: Exactly. Because the Nile is a single linear artery, whoever controlled the river controlled all transport and communication. In a forest or a vast plain, a rebellious group might hide or move. In the Nile Valley, there is nowhere to go but the desert. This geographical confinement gave the government immense agency. They could tax with 100% efficiency because they knew exactly how much land was fertile each year based on the flood levels.

Furthermore, the need to re-survey land after the silt covered the boundaries every year forced the development of geometry. Geometry wasn't just abstract math; it was a practical tool for efficient governance. The fit between geography, geometry and governance was so tight that the Egyptian state remained fundamentally stable for 3,000 years, an endurance record no modern business or nation has ever approached.

35.

If the Nilometer reading in a given year was significantly lower than that of the previous year, what logical conclusion would the Egyptian bureaucracy arrive at?

- (a) Tax revenues for the coming year would likely increase.
- (b) They should immediately increase the volume of grain exports.
- (c) Food reserves would need to be managed strictly to prevent famine.
- (d) The quantum of arable land would remain unchanged that year.

36.

What was the primary purpose of the "Nilometer"?

- (a) To measure riverine levels to predict agricultural yields and fix tax rates.
- (b) To track the speed of trade ships travelling downstream.
- (c) To calculate distances using the flow of water in the Nile.
- (d) To measure the consumption of water by the capital city.

37.

The term 'agency' with respect to the government refers to the:

- (a) department responsible for calculation and collection of taxes.
- (b) ability of individual citizens to import and export on behalf of the government.
- (c) mercantile belief that the government controlled all commerce.
- (d) government's ability to exert power and organise resources within its territory.

38.

The Host refers to a "logic-gate". What is the 'input' and the 'output' of this gate?

- (a) Input: Agriculture; Output: Exports.
- (b) Input: Environmental data; Output: Administrative action.
- (c) Input: Prayers and sacrifices; Output: Increased harvest.
- (d) Input: Nilometer; Output: Inference.

39.

Why was "geographical confinement" beneficial to the central Egyptian government?

- (a) It provided a natural defence against both land as well as sea-based invasions.
- (b) It allowed for the easy expansion of the Egyptian state into landlocked territories.
- (c) It minimized the need for a complex governance structure by forcing all citizens to live in a single city.
- (d) It restricted the population to a narrow, observable corridor, facilitating administrative oversight of movement and resources.

40.

In the conversation, what does the term 'linear artery' imply about the Nile's role in Egypt?

- (a) It was a complex network of hundreds of small, aortic streams.
 - (b) It was the perennial source of water for most citizens.
 - (c) It served as the singular, vital channel for all movement and survival in the region.
 - (d) It was a corpuscular thread that ran from the North to the South of the country.
-

Sentence Rearrangement

41.

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided.

1. But, streaming service Deezer, which has developed tools to tackle AI music, points out that many of her albums on the platform are flagged as computer-generated.
2. Three of Sienna Rose's jazz-infused soul songs are in the Viral Top 50.
3. Look closer and you'll see the indications of an AI artist such as no social media presence, no videos, and an improbable number of songs released in a short space of time.
4. The most popular, a dreamy ballad titled *Into the Blue*, has been played more than five million times.

- (a) 2413
- (b) 2314
- (c) 1234
- (d) 2341

42.

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided.

1. In established companies, putting in extra hours is usually a way to get ahead. Elon Musk once said that no one ever changed the world on a 40-hour workweek. They are less likely to be promoted too.
2. There are also other ways to approach this question. You might argue that the optimal workweek is defined by output, not hours. You might say that this is one for policy makers.
3. How long people actually work is not the same as how long they ought to. Jobs, incomes and cultural norms vary so wildly that there is no right answer.
4. Nine to five is still alive. Sort of. A new survey of labour-force data finds that the world's adult employed population works an average of 42 hours a week.

- (a) 1234
- (b) 1432
- (c) 1324
- (d) 1423

43.

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided.

1. Faced with an ageing population and sluggish economy, Beijing proposes to encourage more young people to marry and have children.
2. At the same time, its death rate rose to 8.04 per 1,000 people.
3. China's birth rates fell for the fourth consecutive year and sunk to a record low.
4. Despite the government rolling out a spate of incentives to boost it, the country's birth rate fell to 5.63 per 1,000 people.

- (a) 1324
- (b) 3421
- (c) 3241
- (d) 4321

44.

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided.

1. "It's going to be less of freak biological occurrences and more like hurricanes, which are increasing and becoming more devastating", say health experts.
2. It is hard to predict which pathogen could launch the next global health crisis, but infectious diseases experts say they are closely watching various outbreaks world-wide for signs of pandemic potential.
3. Pandemics are expected to occur more often and become more deadly because of climate change, globalisation, and the billions of livestock we raise to eat, as well as wild animals whose habitats we have diminished.
4. A manufactured pathogen is also a danger. Due to advances in medical technology and AI, a single rogue actor can create a threat.

- (a) 3124
- (b) 1324
- (c) 2134
- (d) 1432

45.

The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the most logical order and enter the sequence of numbers in the space provided.

1. During the last 150 years or so, the world production of food has increased for two main reasons.
2. At the same time the development of various branches of science, and in particular medical science, has helped to eliminate or lessen the effects of many diseases, enabling more adults to reach old age.
3. New lands have been brought into use for farming for the first time, and new techniques have made it possible to obtain higher yields in existing farming areas.
4. The relentless growth of world population over the last 150 to 200 years was only possible because more and more food and other items of consumption became available.

- (a) 1234
 (b) 4132
 (c) 1324
 (d) 4321
-

ANSWER KEY

SA

1. 10
2. 7
3. 60
4. 5
5. 106
6. 4
7. 5
8. 54
9. 2
10. 6
11. 122
12. 3
13. 2
14. 72
15. 6615

MCQ

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1	B	11	C	21	B

2	D	12	C	22	A
3	D	13	C	23	B
4	A	14	B	24	A
5	A	15	C	25	D
6	A	16	A	26	C
7	D	17	D	27	B
8	C	18	C	28	C
9	D	19	B	29	C
10	C	20	B	30	B

VA

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1	C	16	D	31	A
2	A	17	D	32	C
3	A	18	C	33	A
4	B	19	D	34	C
5	A	20	C	35	C
6	A	21	B	36	A
7	C	22	B	37	D
8	A	23	C	38	B
9	B	24	D	39	D
10	A	25	C	40	C
11	A	26	B	41	A
12	D	27	D	42	B
13	C	28	C	43	B

14 D 29 B 44 A

15 D 30 B 45 B