

Sample Questions for UG-CLAT 2020

English Language

1.

The summer he turned 82, my father lost his stories. He was still vibrant, garrulous and energetic, and initially none of us noticed that his anecdotes were getting repetitive, that he was forgetting names and places, that he was confusing times and references. A man of many narratives, we listened to his oft-repeated tales, sometimes with feigned patience and sometimes with visible impatience.

Till the day the stories stopped. The words dried out. The memories disappeared. The change happened so gradually that its final suddenness took us, his immediate family by complete surprise. And when the stories dried up, the energy seemed to drain away from his soul. This loss of energy was immediately and visibly apparent as this was one trait, above all others that characterised my father.

A child of Partition, Baba had left his native Barisal in present-day Bangladesh, on the eve of this momentous event in 1947, at the age of 14. My grandmother, widowed since the birth of my father, her youngest son, decided to leave their sprawling homestead with extensive farming lands and immigrate to the yet-to-be formed republic of India, along with her four other sons. Thus, family lore tells us, she liquidated some of her assets, packed her immediate family and necessary belongings onto a steamer and sailed into the teeming, seething city of Calcutta to set up a new life.

A seminal rupture in the subcontinent, Partition had wreaked havoc among countless families, uprooted and flung far and wide without any recourse. Baba often became that recourse – his contribution making a significant difference to families struggling to survive with some degree of dignity. It seemed his experience of early loss and deprivation had in a strangely converse way, endowed him with a generosity of soul that I have yet to encounter in another person.

It was thus shocking to see this extraordinary man with the mind, heart and soul of a Colossus shorn of his spirit.

In an effort to revive his flagging interest, I urged him to start writing down stories from his life. I bought him a notebook and with great flourish announced his assignment.

Stories were my particular stock in trade. I'd nurtured an early passion for storytelling and story writing into a teaching career focussed on literacy. I used specific strategies to build a writing habit in my students, centred on the belief that we all have stories to tell. As the children became confident and joyful storytellers, their acquisition of benchmarked literacy skills outstripped that of their peers.

Could I use these same strategies to draw the forgotten stories from Baba? Would these forgotten stories in turn help him reconstruct a sense of self?

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Her father's memories were slipping away. She made him tell stories so that he could hold on to them", by Ranu Bhattacharyya, Scroll, 2019.]

1.1 Which of the following most accurately expresses the author's main idea in the passage?

- (a) As people get older, they tend to lose their memories.
- (b) Asking an old person who is losing their memory to write down stories from their life may help them reconstruct their sense of identity.
- (c) Partition was a very disruptive event in our subcontinent's history, and we should ensure our grandchildren know about it.
- (d) It can sometimes be tiresome and boring to listen to old people telling the same stories over and over again.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) - asking an old person who is losing their memory to write down stories from their life may help them reconstruct their sense of identity. This is apparent from the way in which the author describes how their father was losing his memory, how the author asks him to write down stories from his life, and finally, in the last paragraph of the passage, where the author describes how they wondered if asking their father to write down such stories would help them 'reconstruct a sense of self'. While the points set out in (a), (c), and (d) may have been discussed in the passage, none of these is the author's main point, as the idea in option (b) is the one that is discussed at most length and in depth.

1.2 Why did the author think that asking their father to write down stories would help him?

- (a) Because the author had come across genetics research which indicated that this had helped other people as well.
- (b) Because the author thought that thinking about the past would help their father regain his memory.

- (c) Because the author had seen how their students had benefitted tremendously from similar strategies in their teaching career.
- (d) Because the author had done the same thing in the past and had regained their memory as a result.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - because the author had seen how their students had benefitted tremendously from similar strategies in their teaching career. This is clear from the second-to-last paragraph of the passage, where the author describes how deploying similar strategies with their students helped the students far outstrip benchmarked literacy skills. Option (b) does not provide an answer to the question at all. Options (a) and (d) are not supported by any information in the passage.

1.3 What does the word 'garrulous' as used in the passage mean?

- (a) Quiet and restrained.
- (b) Tall and handsome.
- (c) Moody and reflective.
- (d) Excessively talkative.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) - excessively talkative. This is apparent from how the author describes their father in the first paragraph, and talks about his 'many narratives' and 'oft-repeated tales'. Options (a) and (c) are contrary to the author's description of their father in the portion of the passage where the word 'garrulous' is used, and there is nothing in that portion of the passage to support (b) as the correct answer.

1.4 What role did the author's father play for families uprooted by the Partition?

- (a) He acted as a source of help to them in a difficult situation through his generosity of soul.
- (b) He helped them find lost family members and put them in touch with them.
- (c) He helped them by providing food and medicines when they were in need.
- (d) He told them stories of their homeland, since he had such a large store of stories and anecdotes.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) - he acted as a source of help to them in a difficult situation through his generosity of soul. This is clear from the fourth paragraph of the passage. There is nothing in the passage to support option (b) or (c) as the correct option. While the author's father, we are told, had a lot of stories to tell, there is nothing in the passage to indicate he told these stories to families uprooted by the Partition nor that hearing such stories helped them; therefore, (d) cannot be the correct answer.

1.5 Why did the sudden stop in their father's stories take the author and their family by surprise?

- (a) Because the stop in stories was accompanied with an increase in his analysis of news and current affairs, and the author and their family were very interested in the same things.
- (b) Because one day the author asked their father about the Partition, and he had forgotten that it had ever occurred.
- (c) Because the author wanted to hear more stories about their grandmother, and he refused to talk about her.
- (d) Because the author and their family used to listen to his stories impatiently since he would often repeat them, and had not noticed he was forgetting or confusing some parts of the stories.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) - because the author and their family used to listen to his stories impatiently since he would often repeat them, and had not noticed he was forgetting or confusing some parts of the stories. The author explains this in the first paragraph, and describes how they were taken by surprise one day when the stories stopped, in the second paragraph. There is no information in the passage to support (a), (b), or (c) as the correct option.

2.

The old woman didn't like the look or sound of the kid. She scowled at her husband. 'Where did you pick up this kitten from? Why do we need her?' When the old man told her she was a goat kid, she picked her up and exclaimed in amazement: 'Yes, she is a goat kid!'

All night, they went over the story of how the kid had come into their hands.

That same night the old lady gave the goat kid that resembled a kitten a nickname: Poonachi. She once had a cat by the same name. In memory of that beloved cat, this goat kid too was named Poonachi. They had acquired her without spending a penny. Now they had to look after her somehow. Her husband had told her a vague story about meeting a demon who looked like Bakasuran and receiving the kid from him as a gift. She wondered if he could have stolen it from a goatherd. Someone might come looking for it tomorrow. Maybe her husband had told her the story only to cover up his crime?

The old woman was not used to lighting lamps at night. The couple ate their evening meal and went to bed when it was still dusk. That night, though, she took a large earthen lamp and filled it with castor oil extracted the year before. There was no cotton for a wick. She tore off a strip from a discarded loincloth of her husband's and fashioned it into a wick.

She looked at the kid under the lamplight in that shed as though she were seeing her own child after a long time. There was no bald spot or bruise anywhere on her body. The kid was all black. As she stared at the lamp, her wide open eyes were starkly visible. There was a trace of fatigue on her face. The old woman thought the kid looked haggard because she had not been fed properly. She must be just a couple of days old. A determination that she must somehow raise this kid to adulthood took root in her heart.

She called the old man to come and see the kid. She looked like a black lump glittering in the lamplight in that pitch-black night. He pulled fondly at her flapping ears and said, 'Aren't you lucky to come and live here?'

It had been a long time since there was such pleasant chit-chat between the couple. Because of the kid's sudden entry into their lives, they ended up talking a while about the old days.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Poonachi, or the Story of a Black Goat, by Perumal Murugan, translated by N. Kalyan Raman, Context, 2018.]

2.1 Why did the old woman doubt her husband's story about how he had got the kid?

- (a) Because goat kids are only sold in livestock markets.
- (b) Because she thought the story was vague, and that he had actually stolen it from a goatherd.
- (c) Because she did not think Bakasuran was so generous as to gift him a goat kid.
- (d) Because her husband was a habitual thief and regularly stole things from other people.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – because she thought the story was vague, and that he had actually stolen it from a goatherd. Both these points are set out in the third paragraph. There is no information in the passage that would support the claim in option (a); similarly, there is nothing in the passage to indicate that the old woman thought Bakasuran was not generous, neither is there any information in the passage to indicate that her husband was a habitual thief, and so, neither (a), (c), nor (d) are correct.

2.2 Why did the old woman name the goat kid ‘Poonachi’?

- (a) Because the kid made small bleating noises that sounded like ‘Poonachi’.
- (b) Because the kid reminded the old woman of her husband, whose name was also Poonachi.
- (c) Because the old woman had first thought the kid was a kitten, and so she named it after a beloved cat she had once had.
- (d) Because ‘Poonachi’ was the name typically given to goat kids in the area the couple lived in.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) – because the old woman had first thought the kid was a kitten, and so she named it after a beloved cat she had once had. This is apparent from the first three sentences of the third paragraph. There is no indication of any noises made by the kid in the passage, and so option (a) cannot be correct. Similarly, there is no indication of the old woman’s husband’s name in the passage, and so, option (b) cannot be correct either. Option (d) cannot be correct since there is no information in the passage about what name was typically given to kids in the area that the old couple lived in.

2.3 What does the word ‘haggard’ as used in the passage mean?

- (a) Dark in colour and hard to see.
- (b) Looking exhausted and unwell.
- (c) Direct and outspoken.
- (d) Furry and warm.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – looking exhausted and unwell. This can be inferred from the information set out in the fifth paragraph, which indicates that there was a trace of fatigue on the kid’s face, and that the old woman thought the kid looked haggard because she had not

been fed properly. Both these pieces of information, that is, that the kid looked fatigued, and had not been fed properly, would support the meaning of 'haggard' set out in option (b). While the passage also discusses how dark the kid is, this discussion is not related to the use of the word 'haggard' in any way, and so, option (a) cannot be correct. There is nothing in the passage to indicate that the kid made any sounds, and so option (c) cannot be correct. Neither is there any discussion in the passage about how furry the kid may have been, and so, option (d) cannot be correct.

2.4 Why was the old woman not used to lighting lamps at night?

- (a) Because the couple usually ate their evening meal and slept at dusk.
- (b) Because her daughter used to light the lamps in their household.
- (c) Because the couple was very poor, and could not afford oil for lamps.
- (d) Because the old couple did not usually exchange pleasant chit-chat.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – because the old couple usually ate their evening meal and slept at dusk. This is apparent from the first two lines of the fourth paragraph. There is no mention of the couple's daughter in the passage, and so, option (b) cannot be correct. Neither option (c) nor option (d) is related to the author's explanation of why the old woman was not used to lighting lamps at night.

2.5 What can we infer from the passage about why the old couple talked about the old days that night?

- (a) The old couple did not usually like talking with each other, and avoided conversation.
- (b) The old couple was very poor, and were so tired after working all day that they did not feel like talking.
- (c) The old woman was usually very upset with her husband and thought he was a thief.
- (d) They spoke about the old days because of the kid's sudden entry in their lives, and the pleasant chit-chat they exchanged about it.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – they spoke about the old days because of the kid's sudden entry in their lives, and the pleasant chit-chat they exchanged about it. This can be inferred from the last two paragraphs of the passage; the last line of the passage clearly indicates this. Nothing

in the passage supports options (a) or (b) as the correct answer. While the third paragraph indicates that the old woman may have suspected her husband had stolen the kid, the author does not relate this to their talking about the old days that night.

Current Affairs, including General Knowledge

1.

The U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstructing Congress, the culmination of an effort by Democrats that further inflamed partisan tensions in Washington and deepened the nation's ideological divide.

The historic votes, which won the support of almost all Democrats in the House chamber but not a single Republican, leave Trump as only the third president in U.S. history to be impeached -- and the only impeached president likely to win his party's nomination for re-election.

The Senate will hold a trial early next year to decide whether the president should be convicted on the charges and removed from office, though the Republicans who have the majority in that chamber will almost certainly acquit him.

House Democrats took depositions from more than a dozen witnesses, held weeks of hearings, and wrote hundreds of pages documenting Trump's efforts to pressure the president of [1] to investigate former Vice President [2] and his son.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: Billy House, "Donald Trump impeached on two counts by House, setting up Senate trial", <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/donald-trump-impeached-by-us-house-on-abuse-of-power-charge/articleshow/72878453.cms>]

1.1 Donald Trump is the third President of the United States of America to be impeached. Which of the following presidents has also been impeached?

- (a) George W. Bush
- (b) George Bush Sr.
- (c) Richard Nixon
- (d) Bill Clinton

Answer: (d)

1.2 Which country's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Ukraine
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) Saudi Arabia

Answer: (b)

1.3 What is the name of the former Vice President of the United States of America whose name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- (a) Joe Biden
- (b) Al Gore
- (c) Nancy Pelosi
- (d) Mike Pence

Answer: (a)

1.4 Which Article of the Constitution of India sets out the process for the impeachment of the President of India?

- (a) Article 370
- (b) Article 365
- (c) Article 45
- (d) Article 61

Answer: (d)

1.5 Under the Constitution of India, a charge for the impeachment of the President of India can be preferred by:

- (a) The Lok Sabha only
- (b) The Rajya Sabha only
- (c) Either House of Parliament
- (d) Both Houses of Parliament simultaneously

Answer: (c)

2.

The [x] mission is a highly complex mission, which represents a significant technological leap compared to the previous missions of ISRO. It comprised an Orbiter, Lander and Rover to explore the unexplored [y]. The mission is designed to expand the lunar scientific knowledge through detailed study of topography, seismography, mineral identification and distribution, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics of top soil and composition of the tenuous lunar atmosphere, leading to a new understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon.

After the injection of [x], a series of maneuvers were carried out to raise its orbit and on August 14, 2019, following Trans Lunar Insertion (TLI) maneuver, the spacecraft escaped from orbiting the earth and followed a path that took it to the vicinity of the Moon. On August 20, 2019, [x] was successfully inserted into lunar orbit ...

The Orbiter placed in its intended orbit around the Moon will enrich our understanding of the moon's evolution and mapping of the minerals and water molecules in Polar regions, using its eight state-of-the-art scientific instruments.

Source: ISRO website

2.1 In the above passage, the name of the mission has been redacted with '[x]'. What is the name of the mission?

- (a) Chandrayaan-1
- (b) Mangalyaan-2
- (c) Chandrayaan-2
- (d) Mission Mangal

(Answer: (c))

2.2 In the above passage what has been redacted with '[y]'?

- (a) North Pole of the Moon.
- (b) North Pole of Mars.
- (c) South Pole of the Moon.
- (d) The Lunar Equator.

(Answer: (c))

2.3 The mission referred to in the above passage was launched from which space station?

- (a) Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- (b) K. Sivan Space Centre.
- (c) Sivanakota Space Centre.
- (d) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

(Answer: (a))

2.4 Which unexpected incident took place on September 7, 2019 in relation to the mission referred to in the above passage that was described by the Chairperson of ISRO as '15 minutes of terror'?

- (a) Vikram Lander had a hard-landing and communication from the lander to the ground station was lost.
- (b) Vikram Orbiter had a disorientation and spiralled out of its intended orbit.
- (c) Vikram Lander got separated from the Orbiter in preparation for landing.
- (d) There was a 15-minute power outage at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) when Vikram Lander was about to land.

(Answer: (a))

2.5 Which of the following is a factually accurate statement in relation to the mission referred to above?

- (a) The Orbiter that is a part of the mission is the first lunar orbiter launched by India.
- (b) The Lander that is a part of the mission was the first to achieve a soft-landing on the far-side of the lunar surface.
- (c) The mission is the first ever robotic spacecraft mission in the world.
- (d) The Orbiter High Resolution Camera that is a part of the mission is the highest resolution camera in any lunar mission so far.

(Answer: (d))

Legal Reasoning

1.

India's Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 ('Bill') starts encouragingly, seeking to protect "the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data". But by the end, it is clear it is not designed to deliver on the promise. For, even as it rightly requires handlers of data to abide by globally-accepted rules — about getting an individual's consent first — it disappointingly gives wide powers to the Government to dilute any of these provisions for its agencies.

Recently, messaging platform WhatsApp said that some Indian journalists and rights activists were among those spied on using technology made by an Israeli company, which by its own admission only works for government agencies across the world.

Importantly, one of the first to raise a red flag about the Bill's problematic clauses was Justice B.N. Srikrishna, whose committee's report forms the basis of the Bill. He has used words such as "Orwellian" and "Big Brother" in reaction to the removal of safeguards against actions of Government agencies. In its report last July, the committee noted that the dangers to privacy originate from state and non-state actors. It, therefore, called for exemptions to be "watertight", "narrow", and available for use in "limited circumstances". It had also recommended that the Government bring in a law for the oversight of intelligence-gathering activities, the means by which non-consensual processing of data takes place. A related concern about the Bill is regarding the constitution of the Data Protection Authority of India ('DPA'), which is to monitor and enforce the provisions of the Act. It will be headed by a chairperson and have not more than six whole-time members, all of whom are to be selected by a panel filled with Government nominees. This completely disregards the fact that Government agencies are also regulated under the Bill; they are major collectors and processors of data themselves. The sweeping powers the Bill gives to the Government render meaningless the gains from the landmark *K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India* case, which culminated in the recognition that privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty, and therefore a basic right. That idea of privacy is certainly not reflected in the Bill in its current form.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *Unfulfilled Promise: On Personal Data Protection Bill*, Editorial by *The Hindu*, December 16, 2019.]

1.1 Which of the following views can be correctly attributed to the author of the above passage?

- (a) The idea of privacy is not relevant to the Bill.
- (b) The idea of privacy can be overridden by Government agencies since their role is to protect citizens.

- (c) The idea of privacy as a basic right is not adequately addressed in the Bill in its current form.
- (d) Since the Bill gives sweeping powers to the Government, it is meaningless to reflect the idea of privacy in the Bill.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) – the idea of privacy as a basic right is not adequately addressed in the Bill in its current form. The very essence of the author’s view is that despite the judgment in the landmark K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India case recognising the right to privacy as a basic right, the Bill in its current form does not sufficiently protect the right to privacy of individuals. None of the other options sets out views that are consistent with those of the author in the passage above.

1.2 According to the passage, the committee headed by Justice B. N. Srikrishna called for:

- (a) Limiting the grounds on which Government agencies may be allowed to act in a manner that endangers the right to privacy of individuals.
- (b) The right to privacy to be exempted from the ambit of the Bill.
- (c) The right to privacy to be endangered by state and non-state actors.
- (d) Watertight protection to Government agencies that process data of individuals.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – limiting the grounds on which Government agencies may be allowed to act in a manner that endangers the right to privacy of individuals. As is evident from a reading of the passage, the committee anticipated dangers to the right to privacy from Government agencies as well and advocated building safeguards to prevent the same. The passage states that the committee recommended that exemptions allowed to Government agencies should be “watertight”, “narrow”, and available for use in “limited circumstances”. (a) is the only option consistent with such a recommendation.

1.3 Suppose the Bill provides a test of proportionality in respect of privacy, which is: “the act which infringes privacy must have a legitimate aim and must be the least restrictive way of achieving that aim”. If a journalist is known for her reporting on corruption in Government agencies and the Government chooses to engage a surveillance company to collect messages exchanged by her on WhatsApp, in order to intimidate her, does it meet the test of proportionality?

- (a) Yes; without collecting the journalists' WhatsApp messages, there is no way for the Government to prevent her from reporting against it.
- (b) No; the Government should have taken measures such as imprisoning the journalist to ensure that she does not continue reporting.
- (c) No; conducting surveillance on a journalist to intimidate her is not a legitimate aim.
- (d) Yes; reporting on issues that show the Government in bad light creates disharmony and the Government used proportionate force to prevent the same.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - No; conducting surveillance on a journalist to intimidate her is not a legitimate aim. This is because it provides a correct explanation for why the Government's actions fail the test of proportionality as stated above. The test of proportionality requires that an act that infringes privacy must have a legitimate aim. Conducting surveillance on a journalist in order to intimidate her cannot be a legitimate aim.

1.4 The author is concerned about the constitution of the DPA under the Bill because:

- (a) The author believes that Government agencies should not be regulated under the Bill.
- (b) The author believes that if the members of the DPA are elected by Government nominees, the DPA will be ineffective in regulating Government agencies.
- (c) The author believes that the DPA should be constituted of major collectors and processors of data.
- (d) The author believes that collectors and processors of data cannot be regulated by persons who have no experience in collecting and processing data.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – the author believes that if the members of the DPA are elected by Government nominees, the DPA will be ineffective in regulating Government agencies. This is because the author's concern regarding the constitution of the DPA under the Bill relates to the fact that the members of the DPA are to be elected by a panel comprising mainly Government nominees and the author doubts the ability of a body constituted of Government appointees to, in turn, regulate the actions of the Government agencies.

1.5 The Bill is amended, and the Government's powers to provide exemptions for its agencies are removed. In such a situation, according to the author:

- (a) The Bill would deliver on its promise of seeking to protect the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data.

- (b) The Bill would not deliver on its promise of seeking to protect the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data.
- (c) The Bill would not deliver on its promise, since it is necessary for the Government to have such exemptions in order to effectively do its work.
- (d) The Bill would be a failure, since the Government would not be able to implement it.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – the Bill would deliver on its promise of seeking to protect the privacy of individuals relating to their personal data. This is clear from the first paragraph of the passage, where the author suggests that the wide powers given to the Government are the reason why the Bill does not live up to its promise. Option (b) is directly contradictory to this, and so cannot be the right option. There is nothing in the passage to support either (c) or (d) as the correct option.

2.

Last week, the government used the Drug Price Control Order, 2013, to increase the price ceiling for 21 medicines by as much as 50% to ensure their availability in the market. This is a welcome move because lower prices would have further limited the availability of these drugs, some of which include those used for malaria, leprosy and allergy. The decision by the regulatory authority – usually known to reduce prices of essential drugs – was prompted by repeated petitions by the pharmaceutical industry, which pointed out that the increasing cost of imports had made the production of some of these drugs unviable. Prices of bulk drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients have, in fact, gone up by up to 88%, and are largely imported.

This raises a basic question: Should the government control prices? The motivation for controlling drug prices is not very difficult to understand. Unlike some of the developed countries, where most of the population has insurance coverage or medical facilities are provided by the state, medical expenses in India are borne by citizens, largely through out-of-pocket expenses. Therefore, the state intervenes by keeping prices of some drugs in check to contain such spending. However, the unintended consequence is that it affects the supply of drugs and can potentially make citizens worse off. The risk of non-availability was an important reason for raising prices. Although all pharmaceutical companies may not stop producing drugs with price control, they may limit the supply. Further, the government usually dithers on price hike because of political considerations so that it is not accused of favouring private companies.

Thus, the government should stay away from dictating prices and allow the market to function. Competition in the marketplace will ensure that no company is able to make

extraordinary profits in basic and essential drugs. Since the state has limited resources, it should focus on regulation, and ensure that the quality of drugs supplied in the market is not compromised at any point.

[Source (edited): “Price hike, at last”, Business Standard, Mumbai, December 17, 2019.]

2.1 Based on the author’s arguments in the passage above, which of the following would be most correct:

- (a) The state should not control prices of medicines, since this would hamper the development of international pharmaceutical companies.
- (b) The state should control the prices of medicines, since it would also be manufacturing the drugs itself.
- (c) The state should not control the prices of medicines, since the market would determine the best price for such drugs.
- (d) The state should control the prices of medicines, since citizens are likely to fall ill more often.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) – the state should not control the prices of medicines, since the market would determine the best price for such drugs. The author offers the reason for controlling drug prices towards the beginning of the second paragraph – since, unlike in developed countries, medical expenses in India are borne by citizens, the state intervenes by keeping prices of some drugs in check. Based on this reasoning, therefore, if citizens do not have to pay for drugs, there would be no reason for the state to control prices. There is nothing in the passage to support either (a), (b), or (d) as the correct option.

2.2 An essential medicine, ‘Formula A’, is used to treat cancer, and there is only one company engaged in its manufacture. If this is true, then, based on the author’s reasoning in the passage above:

- (a) The state should not control the price of Formula A, since it should allow the market to function.
- (b) The state should control the price of Formula A, since there is no competition in the marketplace, and it cannot function to control the price of the medicine.
- (c) The state should ban the sales of Formula A, and ask patients to consider using some other medicine that is made by more than one manufacturer.
- (d) The state should take up the manufacture of Formula A itself.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – the state should control the price of Formula A, since there is no competition in the marketplace, and it cannot function to control the price of the medicine. The author argues that competition in the marketplace would ensure that no company is able to make extraordinary profits, in the last paragraph of the passage above. If, however, only one company manufactures Formula A, there would be no competition in the marketplace, and thus, the state would have to control its price.

2.3 The state removes all price restrictions on an essential medicine. Pharmaceutical companies start selling that medicine at a price nearly 5 times its earlier price. In such a situation, based on the author’s reasoning above:

- (a) The state should not control the price of the medicine, since competition in the market would eventually lead to an appropriate price being set.
- (b) The state should not control the price of the medicine, since the price increase is directly attributable to an increase in the price of the ingredients used in the medicine.
- (c) The state should not control the price of the medicine, but it should supply the ingredients for the medicine at lower prices.
- (d) The state should control the price of the medicine, since people may not be able to afford it anymore.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – the state should not control the price of the medicine, since competition in the market would eventually lead to an appropriate price being set. The author provides this reasoning for why the state should not control the prices of medicines, in the last paragraph of the passage. There is no information in the facts provided to indicate that (b) is the correct option. The author does not discuss the state providing the ingredients for medicines at all, and so, option (c) cannot be correct. Option (d) is also not correct, since we do not know what the previous price of the medicine was, nor do we have any information about whether people can afford it or not; this option is also contradictory to the author’s argument that the market would eventually ensure that no company makes extraordinary profits.

2.4 The state places a very low price for the sale of an essential medicine, which is lower than the price of the imported ingredients used to make that medicine. What, according to the author, would be the effect of setting such a low price?

- (a) The low price would result in people thinking the medicine is not good, and they would not use it.
- (b) Companies supplying the ingredients for the medicine would lower the prices of their products.
- (c) People would buy more health insurance policies, so that they do not have to pay for essential medicines.
- (d) The low price would restrict the availability of the medicine in the market, since pharmaceutical companies may not want to manufacture or import the medicine and sell it at that price.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – the low price would restrict the availability of the medicine in the market, since pharmaceutical companies may not want to manufacture or import the medicine and sell it at that price. This option is supported by the first paragraph, which describes how pharmaceutical companies have pointed out that the increasing costs of imports have made the manufacture of certain drugs unviable, since ingredients are usually imported. The author does not discuss the pricing policies of the manufacturers of ingredients of medicines, and so, option (b) cannot be correct. Neither is there any information in the passage to support option (c) as the correct answer.

2.5 The pharmaceutical industry has been asking the government to raise the prices of certain drugs for a long time, but has not received a response. Why, according to the author, could this be?

- (a) The government is indecisive about raising prices for the fear of being accused of favouring private companies.
- (b) Private companies only value profit, and do not pay attention to the quality of medicines they manufacture.
- (c) The government has limited resources, and may not have been able to study the details of the pharmaceutical industry's demands.
- (d) Since deciding the prices of medicines is not the government's job, it would wish to avoid doing so.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – the government is indecisive about raising prices for the fear of being accused of favouring private companies. The author states this towards the end of the second paragraph, and says that this would be for political considerations. There is no

information in the passage to support (b) as the correct option. While the author says that the government has limited resources, and argues that it should not set prices for medicines, the author does not provide these as reasons for delays by the government in setting the prices of medicines.

Logical Reasoning

1.

Rahul Dravid, the head-coach of India's Under-19 cricket team, explained that the 2018 Under-19 World Cup team selection strategy was about providing opportunities to a lot more players to come into the India Under-19 fold. He explained that more than winning — which is not the right touchstone of success of a program at this level — what matters is how many of the players are able to move to the next level, that is playing first-class cricket. He, therefore, made a conscious decision to not select players from the previous World Cup to the 2018 Under-19 World Cup squad.

1.1 Which one of the following statements is consistent with Dravid's selection strategy for the 2018 Under-19 World Cup as stated above?

- (a) Selecting an inexperienced team at the under-19 level ensures failure and players who experience failure learn to be humble.
- (b) Playing a sport is more important than winning or losing.
- (c) The Under-19 World Cup is a stepping-stone to first-class cricket and winning it should not be the end-goal.
- (d) When players are under the age of 19, they do not feel stressed about playing at a World Cup; however, as they age, their ability to play well depends on the number of matches they have already played.

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) - the Under-19 World Cup is a stepping-stone to first-class cricket and winning it should not be the end-goal. This is clear from Dravid's statement that winning is not the right touchstone of success, and that what matters more is how many players are able to move to the next level, that is, playing first-class cricket. None of the other options is supported by the information in the passage, and so, cannot be the correct answer.

1.2 Which of the following is the most desirable outcome of Dravid's selection strategy from his perspective?

- (a) The team losing the World Cup, but 5 players from the squad going on to play first-class cricket.
- (b) The team winning the World Cup, and 1 player getting selected for the national team.

- (c) The team winning the World Cup, and no player getting selected for the next Under-19 World Cup team.
- (d) The team winning the World Cup, and 5 players from the squad going on to play first-class cricket.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) - the team winning the World Cup, and 5 players from the squad going on to play first-class cricket. Options (b) and (c) are not as desirable as the other options, since the other options contemplate more players entering the next level, which is consistent with Dravid's selection strategy. Therefore, neither (b) nor (c) can be the correct answer. While options (a) and (b) both describe 5 players going on to play first-class cricket, option (d) has the added advantage of the team winning the World Cup - Dravid says players moving to the next level is more important than winning the World Cup, but does not describe winning the World Cup as undesirable. Therefore, option (a) cannot be the correct answer either.

1.3 Which of the following statements, if true, contradicts Dravid's selection strategy?

- (a) First-class cricket selectors evaluate under-19 cricketers based on the win-loss ratio of the team they were a part of.
- (b) First-class cricket selectors evaluate under-19 cricketers based on their ability to cope with injuries.
- (c) First-class cricket selectors evaluate under-19 cricketers based on their individual performances.
- (d) Players who have played in international tournaments face domestic competition better than those who have not.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) - first-class cricket selectors evaluate under-19 cricketers based on the win-loss ratio of the team they were a part of. Since Dravid's team selection prioritises giving more players opportunities, rather than winning, the selection strategy described in option (a) would contradict Dravid's strategy, and therefore, this would be the correct answer. Options (b) and (c) neither support nor contradict Dravid's strategy, and so, cannot be the correct answer. Option (d) may support Dravid's strategy - since his strategy would result in more players having played in international tournaments - and so, option (d) cannot be the correct answer either.

2.

Gayatri: Maharana Pratap was courageous no doubt, but his forces lost to the forces of Emperor Akbar the Great in the Battle of Haldighati. The king of a region such as Mewar and the Emperor of most of the Indian sub-continent at the time cannot both be eligible for the title, 'the Great', given the historical context.

Ranjini: Pratap never surrendered to Akbar in his lifetime despite Akbar sending several envoys to his great rival with the offer of making him a Mughal ally. Pratap's defiance gave other Rajput rulers the courage to refuse alliance with Akbar. The victory in the Battle of Haldighati was a hollow victory for Akbar at best. Pratap's forces were outnumbered by Akbar's by far in the battle, but Pratap escaped with his life and subsequently recovered much of the territory lost in the battle. Maharana Pratap the Great received recognition of his greatness from none other than Emperor Akbar the Great. The latter is known to have wept on hearing the news of his rival's death.

2.1 In support of which of the following does Gayatri state the fact that Maharana Pratap's forces lost to the forces of Emperor Akbar the Great?

- (a) Maharana Pratap was not courageous
- (b) Mewar is a smaller region in comparison to the Indian sub-continent
- (c) Maharana Pratap does not deserve the title 'the Great'
- (d) Akbar defeated Pratap in the battle

(Answer: (c))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (c) – Maharana Pratap does not deserve the title 'the Great'. Gayatri's argument that Maharana Pratap does not deserve the title 'the Great' rests on two premises: first, that his forces lost to Akbar's forces in the battle of Haldighati and second, that the area under Akbar's rule was much larger than that under Pratap's rule.

2.2 Ranjini's statement that Pratap subsequently recovered much of the territory lost in the battle plays which one of the following roles?

- (a) Forms the conclusion of Ranjini's argument that Pratap was courageous
- (b) Forms a premise for Ranjini's argument that Pratap does not deserve the title 'the Great'
- (c) Offers a clarification on who actually won the battle between the forces of Akbar and Pratap

(d) Forms a premise for Ranjini's argument that the outcome of the battle of Haldighati was not of much consequence

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – Forms a premise for Ranjini's argument that the outcome of the battle of Haldighati was not of much consequence. Option (a) is incorrect because the statement referred to in the question is not the conclusion. Option (b) is incorrect because the claim that Pratap doesn't deserve the title 'the Great' is made by Gayatri and not Ranjini. Option (c) is also incorrect since there appears to be no ambiguity about who won the battle of Haldighati.

2.3 Which of the following is the main conclusion of Ranjini's statements?

(a) Pratap is also deserving of the title, 'the Great'

(b) Akbar does not deserve the title, 'the Great'.

(c) Akbar had no rival greater than Pratap

(d) Pratap did not care about the outcome of the Battle of Haldighati

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – Rana Pratap is also deserving of the title, 'the Great'. As is evident from Ranjini's statements, she feels that Maharana Pratap deserves the title 'the Great' and offers several premises in support of this argument. Finally, in referring to Maharana Pratap as 'the Great' she makes her argument very clear. There is nothing in the passage to support the conclusion that she feels that Akbar does not deserve the title and therefore, option (b) is incorrect. The passage does not provide sufficient basis to support the inference in options (c) or (d) and, therefore, they are both incorrect as well.

2.4 The patterns of reasoning in Gayatri's argument closely resembles the pattern of reasoning in all of the following except?

(a) Sir Donald Bradman is the greatest batsman to have ever played Test cricket. Sachin Tendulkar was hugely successful against most bowling attacks, but his batting average of 53.78 in test matches disqualifies him from holding the same status in Test cricket as Sir Bradman who averaged 99.9.

(b) Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are two of the greatest tennis players of all time. While Nadal has a better record against Federer when they have played against each other, Federer has won more grand slams.

(c) There can be no dispute about Diego Maradona's legendary skills as a footballer, but in terms of international football he cannot be compared with Pele because Pele scored 77 goals in 92 matches, whereas Maradona only managed 34 goals in 91 matches.

(d) It is true that Maria Sharapova is a fierce competitor and has had a storied career in international tennis. However, with Serena Williams' 19-2 head-to-head lead over Maria Sharapova, Serena is by far the most dominant woman to have played tennis and Maria Sharapova has done nothing to threaten that domination.

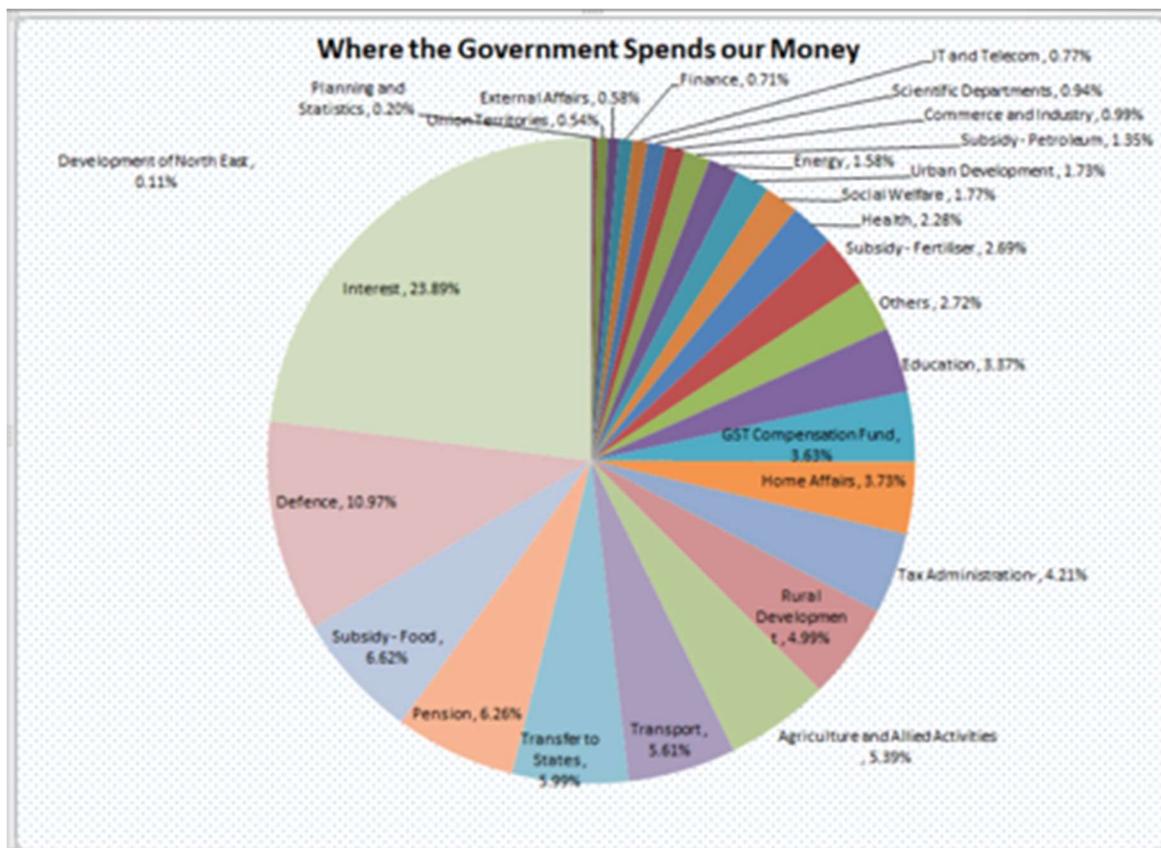
(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are two of the greatest tennis players of all time. While Nadal has a better record against Federer when they have played against each other, Federer has won more grand slams. The pattern of reasoning observed in Gayatri's argument is that if Akbar is given the title 'the Great' then Pratap cannot also be given that title since Akbar ruled over a much bigger area and Akbar's forces defeated those of Pratap's in the battle of Haldighati. All the options above make a case for why one of the two individuals is distinctly superior to another based on certain data points; except (b), in which, both individuals are sought to be placed in the same league of excellence on the basis of one data point favouring each of the two individuals.

Quantitative Techniques

1. The pie chart below shows the Indian Government's interim budget allocation for the year 2019-2020 in percentage terms. All the questions below should be answered solely based on the pie chart below.



[Extracted from: <https://www.capitalmind.in/2019/02/interimbudget-2019-a-quick-look-at-where-government-spends/>]

1.1 If the Government's budgetary allocation for 'Pension' is Rs. 1.7 lakh crore, which of the following is the closest approximation of the total budget amount of the Government?

- (a) Rs. 27.16 lakh crore.
- (b) Rs. 46.83 lakh crore.
- (c) Rs. 10.64 lakh crore.
- (d) Rs. 360.32 lakh crore.

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – Rs. 27.16 lakh crore, because if Rs. 1.7 lakh crore amounts to 6.26 percent of the total budget, then the total budget can be calculated as follows: $[(1.7 \text{ lakh crore} / 6.26) \times 100] = \text{Rs. } 27.156 \text{ lakh crore}$. Therefore, option (a) is the closest approximation of the total budget amount.

1.2 What percentage of the total budget has been earmarked for 'Agriculture and Allied Activities', 'Subsidy-Fertilizer' and 'Subsidy-Food', collectively?

- (a) 14.82%.
- (b) 14.56%.
- (c) 14.67%.
- (d) 14.7%.

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – 14.7%, because the total budget earmarked for Agriculture and Allied Activities, Subsidy-Fertilizer and Subsidy-Food is the sum of 5.39%, 6.62% and 2.69% which is 14.7%.

1.3 If the entire portion of the budget earmarked for Defence is split equally between 'Transport' and 'Home Affairs', what would be the new allocations for 'Transport' and 'Home Affairs' in percentage terms?

- (a) 16.58% (Transport) and 14.7% (Home Affairs).
- (b) 9.18% (Transport) and 11.06% (Home Affairs).
- (c) 14.72% (Transport) and 16.58% (Home Affairs).
- (d) 11.095% (Transport) and 9.215% (Home Affairs).

(Answer: (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – 11.095% (Transport) and 9.215% (Home Affairs). The budgetary allocation for 'Defence' is 10.97%, which when split equally into 2 halves will amount to 2 portions of 5.485%. If 5.485% is added to the pre-existing budgetary allocation for 'Transport' of 5.61%, the sum is 11.095% and if 5.485% is added to the pre-existing budgetary allocation for 'Home Affairs' of 3.73%, the sum is 9.215%.

1.4 What percentage (approximately) of the budgetary allocation for 'Transfer to States' is the budgetary allocation for 'Pension'?

- (a) 8.16%.
- (b) 104.51%.
- (c) 95.69%.
- (d) 11.32%.

(Answer: (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) –104.51%, because the percentage of the budgetary allocation for ‘Transfer to States’ that is represented by the budgetary allocation for ‘Pension’ is calculated as follows: $(6.26/5.99) \times 100$ which is 104.507

2.

At their wedding, Riz and Rekha received gifts amounting to a total of Rs. 1,00,000 – some of which was in cash and the rest was in the form of other articles. The cash received by them alone amounted to more than Rs. 35,000. All the cash received by them were by way of currency notes of the denominations of Rs. 2000, Rs. 500 and Rs. 200. When all the cash they received was pooled together, there were 10 notes of a certain denomination, 12 notes of a second denomination, and 16 notes of a third denomination. Riz and Rekha decided to spend an amount equal to the total value of the gifts received by them at their wedding (by way of cash and otherwise) in the ratio of 2:3 on buying a guitar and a sitar, respectively.

2.1 Which of the options below states the correct number of currency notes of each denomination received by Riz and Rekha?

- (a) 16 notes of Rs. 2,000; 12 notes of Rs. 500; and 10 notes of Rs. 200
- (b) 12 notes of Rs. 2,000; 10 notes of Rs. 500; and 16 notes of Rs. 200
- (c) 10 notes of Rs. 2,000; 12 notes of Rs. 500; and 16 notes of Rs. 200
- (d) 12 notes of Rs. 2,000; 16 notes of Rs. 500; and 10 notes of Rs. 200

(Answer: (a))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (a) – 16 notes of Rs. 2,000; 12 notes of Rs. 500; and 10 notes of Rs. 200, which adds up to a total of Rs. 40,000. The configuration of notes in (b) would add up to Rs. 32,200. The configuration of notes in (c) would add up to Rs. 29,200. The configuration of notes in (d) would add up to Rs. 34,000. Therefore, none of the options other than (a) contains the configuration of notes that would make up for a sum of more than Rs. 35,000.

2.2 What percentage of the total value of the gifts received by Riz and Rekha was by way of cash?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 65%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 40%

(Answer (d))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (d) – 40%. Since Riz and Rekha received 16 notes of Rs. 2,000; 12 notes of Rs. 500; and 10 notes of Rs. 200 – which amounts to a total of Rs. 40,000, and Rs. 40,000 is 40% of Rs. 1,00,000, the correct answer is 40%.

2.3 Which of the following represents the correct amounts spent by Riz and Rekha on buying the guitar and the sitar?

- (a) Rs. 20,000 on the guitar and Rs. 30,000 on the sitar.
- (b) Rs. 40,000 on the guitar and Rs. 60,000 on the sitar.
- (c) Rs. 25,000 on the guitar and Rs. 35,000 on the sitar.
- (d) Rs. 80,000 on the guitar and Rs. 1,20,000 on the sitar.

(Answer (b))

Rationale:

The correct answer is (b) – Rs. 40,000 on the guitar and Rs. 60,000 on the sitar. It is the only option in which the amounts spent on the guitar and the sitar add up to Rs. 1,00,000 and also conform to the ratio of 2:3.