

UPSC CSAT DECODED

Topic-Wise PYQs

2011 - 2026



Your Guide to a Stronger CSAT Preparation

HABITAT IAS

Upsc Csar decoded topic wise pyqs

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Subject A - Quantitative Aptitude

TOPIC-WISE SEGREGATION

S.No	Topics / Subtopics	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
1	Algebra & Equations	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4	12
2	Arithmetic	0	0	0	2	1	1	10	21	8	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	52
3	Average	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	5	1	1	0	0	1	1	18
4	Counting & Combinatorics	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	13
5	Digits & Number Formation	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	7	3	3	0	23
6	Divisibility & Remainders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	5	3	3	0	23
7	Factors, Primes & Multiples	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	3	2	6	0	18
8	Fractions & Decimals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
9	Geometry & Mensuration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
10	HCF & LCM	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Inequalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
12	Integer Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13	Mixture & Alligation	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
14	Number System	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	9	22
15	Percentage	1	0	2	3	2	3	3	1	5	4	8	2	1	4	2	2	43
16	Permutation & Combination	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	2	3	2	2	10	8	1	0	1	35



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TOPIC 01 — ALGEBRA & EQUATIONS

UPSC CSAT PYQs — 2011 to 2026

Total questions in our Topic 01 classification: 12

1. [2011] — Q51

A person has only Rs. 1 and Rs. 2 coins with her. If the total number of coins that she has is 50 and the amount of money with her is Rs. 75, then the number of Rs. 1 and Rs. 2 coins are, respectively

- A. 15 and 35
- B. 35 and 15
- C. 30 and 20
- D. 25 and 25

Answer: D — 25 and 25

Explanation:

Let the number of Rs. 1 coins be x and Rs. 2 coins be y .

$$\begin{aligned} x + y &= 50 \\ x + 2y &= 75 \end{aligned}$$

Subtracting:

$$y = 25$$

Therefore:

$$x = 50 - 25 = 25$$

Hence, the numbers are **25 and 25**.

2. [2015] — Q79

In a box of marbles, there are three less white marbles than the red ones and five more white

marbles than the green ones. If there are a total of 10 white marbles, how many marbles are there in the box?

- A. 26
- B. 28
- C. 32
- D. 36

Answer: B — 28

Explanation:

White marbles = 10.

Red marbles = $10 + 3 = 13$.

Green marbles = $10 - 5 = 5$.

Therefore:

$$\text{Total} = 10 + 13 + 5 = 28$$

Hence, **B**.

3. [2016] — Q14

There are some nectar-filled flowers on a tree and some bees are hovering on it. If one bee lands on each flower, one bee will be left out. If two bees land on each flower, one flower will be left out. The number of flowers and bees respectively are:

- A. 2 and 4
- B. 3 and 2
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 4 and 3

Answer: C — 3 and 4

Explanation:

Let flowers = F and bees = B .

One bee per flower:

$$B = F + 1$$



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Two bees per flower leave one flower empty:

$$B = 2(F - 1)$$

Therefore:

$$F + 1 = 2F - 2$$

$$F = 3$$

Hence:

$$B = 4$$

So there are **3 flowers and 4 bees**.

4. [2016] — Q29

In aid of charity, every student in a class contributes as many rupees as the number of students in that class. With the additional contribution of Rs. 2 by one student only, the total collection is Rs. 443. Then how many students are there in the class?

- A. 12
- B. 21
- C. 43
- D. 45

Answer: B — 21

Explanation:

Let the number of students be n .

Each student contributes n rupees.

Therefore, normal collection:

$$n^2$$

One student contributes Rs. 2 extra:

$$n^2 + 2 = 443$$

$$n^2 = 441$$

$$n = 21$$

The number of students cannot be negative, so the answer is **21**.

5. [2020] — Q9

Let p , q , r and s be natural numbers such that

$$p - 2016 = q + 2017 = r - 2018 = s + 2019.$$

Which one of the following is the largest natural number?

- A. p
- B. q
- C. r
- D. s

Answer: C — r

Explanation:

Let the common value be k .

$$p = k + 2016$$

$$q = k - 2017$$

$$r = k + 2018$$

$$s = k - 2019$$

Clearly:

$$k + 2018 > k + 2016 > k - 2017 > k - 2019.$$

Therefore, **r is the largest**.

6. [2021] — Q55

A person P asks one of his three friends X as to how much money he had. X replied, "If Y gives me Rs. 40, then Y will have half of as much as Z , but if Z gives me Rs. 40, then three of us will have equal amount." What is the total amount of money that X , Y and Z have?



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TOPIC 02 — ARITHMETIC

UPSC CSAT PYQs — 2011 to 2026

2014

1. [2014]

Four persons, Alok, Bhupesh, Chander and Dinesh have a total of ₹100 among themselves. Alok and Bhupesh between them have as much money as Chander and Dinesh between them, but Alok has more money than Bhupesh; and Chander has only half the money that Dinesh has. Alok has in fact ₹5 more than Dinesh has. Who has the maximum amount of money?

- A. Alok
- B. Bhupesh
- C. Chander
- D. Dinesh

Answer: A — Alok

Explanation:

Let Dinesh have x . Chander has $x/2$. Since Chander + Dinesh = ₹50:

$$x + x/2 = 50$$

$$x = 100/3.$$

Alok has ₹5 more than Dinesh, so Alok is the largest among the four. Therefore, **Alok** has the maximum amount.

2. [2014]

For a charity show, the total tickets sold were 420. Half of these tickets were sold at the rate of Rs. 5 each, one-third at the rate of Rs. 3 each and the rest for Rs. 2 each. What was the total amount received?

- A. Rs. 900
- B. Rs. 1,540
- C. Rs. 1,610
- D. Rs. 2,000

Answer: C — Rs. 1,610

Explanation:

Half of 420 = 210 tickets at ₹5:

$$210 \times 5 = ₹1,050$$

One-third = 140 tickets at ₹3:

$$140 \times 3 = ₹420$$

Remaining = $420 - 210 - 140 = 70$ tickets at ₹2:

$$70 \times 2 = ₹140$$

$$\text{Total} = 1,050 + 420 + 140 = ₹1,610.$$

2015

3. [2015]

Twelve people form a club. By picking lots, one of them will host a dinner for all once in a month. The number of dinners a particular member has to host in one year is

- A. One
- B. Zero
- C. Three
- D. Cannot be predicted

Answer: D — Cannot be predicted

Explanation:

There are 12 members and 12 monthly dinners. Although the expected number for each member is one dinner, selection is by lot. A particular member could be selected more than once or not selected at all.



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Therefore, the exact number of dinners that a particular member will host **cannot be predicted**.

2016

4. [2016]

There is an order of 19000 quantity of a particular product from a customer. The firm produces 1000 quantity of that product per day out of which 5% are unfit for sale. In how many days will the order be completed?

- A. 18
- B. 19
- C. 20
- D. 22

Answer: C — 20

Explanation:

Daily production = 1,000 units.

5% are unfit, so saleable production:

$$1,000 \times 95/100 = 950 \text{ units.}$$

Required = 19,000 units.

Number of days:

$$19,000 \div 950 = \mathbf{20 \text{ days.}}$$

5. [2016]

There are some nectar-filled flowers on a tree and some bees are hovering on it. If one bee lands on each flower, one bee will be left out. If two bees land on each flower, one flower will be left out. The number of flowers and bees respectively are:

- A. 2 and 4
- B. 3 and 2
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 4 and 3

Answer: C — 3 and 4

Explanation:

Let flowers = F and bees = B.

One bee per flower leaves one bee:

$$B = F + 1$$

Two bees per flower leave one flower:

$$B = 2(F - 1)$$

Therefore:

$$F + 1 = 2F - 2$$

$$F = 3$$

So B = 4.

6. [2016]

In aid of charity, every student in a class contributes as many rupees as the number of students in that class. With the additional contribution of Rs. 2 by one student only, the total collection is Rs. 443. Then how many students are there in the class?

- A. 12
- B. 21
- C. 43
- D. 45

Answer: B — 21

Explanation:

Let the number of students be n.

TOPIC 04 — COUNTING & COMBINATORICS

UPSC CSAT PYQs — 2011 to 2026

Total Questions: 13

1. [2011] — Q8

Question:

There are four routes to travel from city A to city B and six routes from city B to city C. How many routes are possible to travel from the city A to city C?

- A. 24
- B. 12
- C. 10
- D. 8

Answer: A — 24

Explanation:

For every one of the 4 routes from A to B, there are 6 possible routes from B to C. By the multiplication principle:

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$

Therefore, the total number of routes from A to C is 24.

2. [2011] — Q49

Question:

Study the following figure.

A person goes from A to B always moving to the right or downwards along the lines. How many different routes can he adopt?

- A. 4
- B. 5

- C. 6
- D. 7

Answer: C — 6

Explanation:

The movement is restricted to only two directions: right and downward. Counting all possible paths from A to B while following the lines in the given figure gives **6 distinct routes**.

Therefore, the correct answer is **6**.

3. [2013] — Q17

Question:

Read the following passage and answer the question:

A tennis coach is trying to put together a team of four players for the forthcoming tournament. For this 7 players are available: males A, B and C; and females W, X, Y and Z. All players have equal capability and at least 2 males will be there in the team. For a team of four, all players must be able to play with each other. But B cannot play with W, C cannot play with Z and W cannot play with Y.

If all the three males are selected, then how many combinations of four member teams are possible?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Answer: B — 2

Explanation:

If A, B and C are already selected, only one female is needed.

W cannot be selected because B cannot play with W.
Z cannot be selected because C cannot play with Z.

Therefore, the remaining choices are X and Y.

Possible teams: ABCX and ABCY.

Hence, there are **2 combinations**.

4. [2014] — Q22

Question:

A straight line segment is 36 cm long. Points are to be marked on the line from both the end points. From each end, the first point is at a distance of 1 cm from the end, the second point is at a distance of 2 cm from the first point and the third point is at a distance of 3 cm from the second point and so on. If the points on the ends are not counted and the common points are counted as one, what is the number of points?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 14
- D. 16

Answer: B — 12

Explanation:

From the left end, the points are at:

1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28 cm.

From the right end, their positions measured from the left are:

35, 33, 30, 26, 21, 15, 8 cm.

There are 7 points from each side, but 15 cm and 21 cm are common.

Therefore:

$$7 + 7 - 2 = 12$$

5. [2016] — Q53

Question:

A person is standing on the first step from the bottom of a ladder. If he has to climb 4 more steps to reach exactly the middle step, how many steps does the ladder have?

- A. 8
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 11

Answer: B — 9

Explanation:

The person starts on the first step. After climbing 4 more steps, he reaches:

$$1 + 4 = 5\text{th step.}$$

Thus, the 5th step is exactly the middle step. A ladder with 9 steps has the 5th step as its middle step.

Therefore, the ladder has **9 steps**.

6. [2016] — Q63

Question:

How many numbers are there between 100 and 300 which either begin with or end with 2?

- A. 110
- B. 111
- C. 112
- D. None of the above

Answer: A — 110

Explanation:

All numbers from 200 to 299 begin with 2, giving 100 numbers.

Between 100 and 199, the numbers ending in 2 are:

102, 112, 122, 132, 142, 152, 162, 172, 182, 192

TOPIC 06 — DIVISIBILITY & REMAINDERS

UPSC CSAT PYQs — 2011 to 2026

Total Questions: 23

1. [2020] — Q8

Question:

Let XYZ be a three-digit number, where $(X + Y + Z)$ is not a multiple of 3. Then $(XYZ + YZX + ZXY)$ is not divisible by

- A. 3
- B. 9
- C. 37
- D. $X + Y + Z$

Answer: B — 9

Explanation:

We have:

$$XYZ + YZX + ZXY = 111(X + Y + Z).$$

Since $111 = 3 \times 37$, the expression is always divisible by 3 and 37. It is divisible by 9 only when $X + Y + Z$ is divisible by 3. But the question states that $X + Y + Z$ is not a multiple of 3. Therefore, the expression is **not** divisible by 9.

2. [2020] — Q54

Question:

What is the least four-digit number when divided by 3, 4, 5 and 6 leaves a remainder 2 in each case?

- A. 1012
- B. 1022
- C. 1122
- D. 1222

Answer: B — 1022

Explanation:

The number must leave remainder 2 when divided by 3, 4, 5 and 6. Therefore, $N - 2$ must be divisible by their LCM.

$$\text{LCM}(3, 4, 5, 6) = 60.$$

So:

$$N = 60k + 2.$$

The smallest four-digit value is obtained with $k = 17$:

$$60 \times 17 + 2 = 1022.$$

3. [2020] — Q56

Question:

What is the remainder when $51 \times 27 \times 35 \times 62 \times 75$ is divided by 100?

- A. 50
- B. 25
- C. 5
- D. 1

Answer: A — 50

Explanation:

We only need the last two digits.

$$51 \times 27 = 1377 \rightarrow 77$$

$$77 \times 35 = 2695 \rightarrow 95$$

$$95 \times 62 = 5890 \rightarrow 90$$

$$90 \times 75 = 6750.$$

Therefore, the remainder on division by 100 is **50**.

4. [2020] — Q77

Answer: B — 200 km

Explanation:

Original petrol price = ₹90/litre.

After 10% increase = ₹99/litre.

To maintain the same expenditure, quantity of petrol consumed must fall by the inverse proportion:

New distance = $2200 \times 90/99 = 2000$ km.

Reduction:

$2200 - 2000 = 200$ km.

42. [2026] — Q43

A person saves 10% of his salary every month. If his salary increases by 12% and the expenditure increases by 10%, then what will be the change in his saving per month?

- A. 20% increase
- B. 30% increase
- C. 03% decrease
- D. 02% decrease

Answer: B — 30% increase

Explanation:

Assume salary = 100.

Initial saving = 10, so expenditure = 90.

New salary = 112.

New expenditure = $90 \times 1.10 = 99$.

New saving = $112 - 99 = 13$.

Increase in saving = 3.

Percentage increase = $3/10 \times 100 = 30\%$.

43. [2026] — Q79

There are two chemicals which do not react with each other. A container contains 10 litres of the chemical A. One litre of this chemical is removed from it and one litre of the chemical B is poured. Then one litre of the mixture is removed from the container and one litre of B is poured. If this process of replacing one litre of the mixture by one litre of B is performed once more, then what is the volume of B that is present in the container approximately (in percentage)?

- A. 25
- B. 27
- C. 29
- D. 31

Answer: B — 27%

Explanation:

After each replacement, 90% of the original A remains.

After three replacements:

A remaining = $10 \times (9/10)^3$
 $= 10 \times 0.729$
 $= 7.29$ litres.

Therefore B = $10 - 7.29 = 2.71$ litres.

Percentage of B:

$2.71/10 \times 100 = 27.1\%$.

Approximately, this is **27%**.

TOPIC 16 — PERMUTATION & COMBINATION

UPSC CSAT PYQs — 2011 to 2026

Total Questions: 35

1. [2015] — Q48

A selection is to be made for one post of Principal and two posts of Vice-Principal. Amongst the six candidates called for the interview, only two are eligible for the post of Principal while they all are eligible for the post of Vice-Principal. The number of possible combinations of selectees is

- A. 4
- B. 12
- C. 18
- D. None of the above

Answer: D — None of the above

Explanation:

There are 2 choices for Principal. After selecting the Principal, 5 candidates remain, from whom 2 are selected as Vice-Principals.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Number of selections} &= 2 \times C(5, 2) \\ &= 2 \times 10 \\ &= 20.\end{aligned}$$

Since 20 is not among the first three options, the answer is **D**.

2. [2015] — Q49

A student has to opt for 2 subjects out of 5 subjects for a course, namely, Commerce, Economics, Statistics, Mathematics I and Mathematics II. Mathematics II can be offered only if Mathematics I is also opted. The number of different combinations of two subjects which can be opted is

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

Answer: B — 6

Explanation:

Without the restriction, the number of ways of choosing 2 subjects from 5 is:

$$C(5, 2) = 10.$$

The invalid combinations are those containing Mathematics II without Mathematics I:

Commerce–Mathematics II, Economics–Mathematics II, Statistics–Mathematics II = 3.

Also Mathematics II cannot be selected alone because exactly two subjects must be chosen. Thus valid combinations = 6.

3. [2015] — Q69

There are 5 tasks and 5 persons. Task-1 cannot be assigned to either person-1 or person-2. Task-2 must be assigned to either person-3 or person-4. Every person is to be assigned one task. In how many ways can the assignment be done?

- A. 6
- B. 12
- C. 24
- D. 144

Answer: C — 24

Explanation:

Case 1: Task-2 → Person-3. Task-1 can go to Person-4 or Person-5: 2 ways. The remaining 3 tasks can be assigned in $3! = 6$ ways.

$$\text{So, } 2 \times 6 = 12.$$

Similarly, if Task-2 → Person-4, there are another 12 ways.

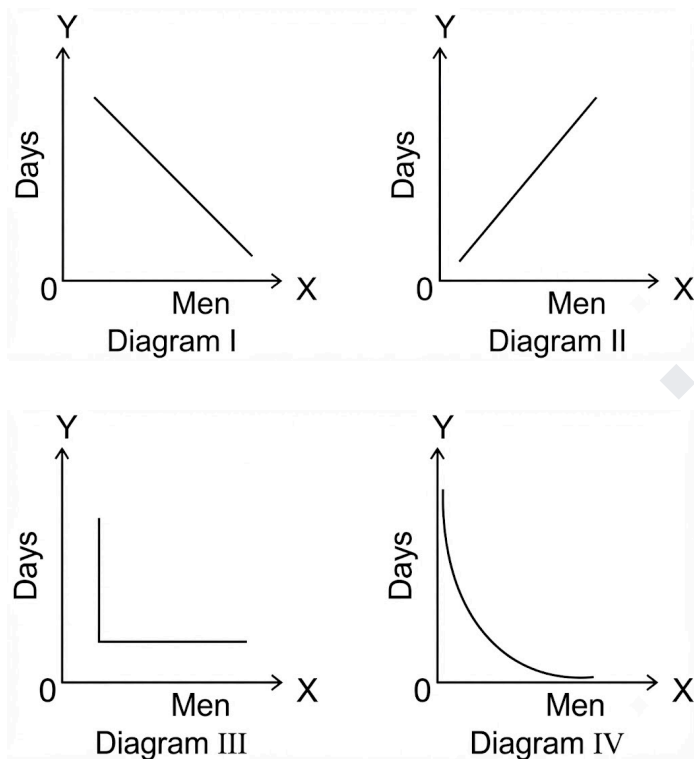
$$\text{Total} = 12 + 12 = 24.$$

TOPIC 26 — TIME & WORK

Total PYQs: 16

1. (2013)

x men, working at constant speed, do a certain job in y days. Which one of these diagrams shows the relation between x and y ?



- A. Diagram I
- B. Diagram II
- C. Diagram III
- D. Diagram IV

Answer: D. Diagram IV

Explanation:

For a fixed amount of work:

$$\text{Men} \times \text{Days} = \text{Constant}$$

Therefore:

$$y \propto 1/x$$

As the number of men increases, the number of days decreases in inverse proportion. The corresponding graph is a decreasing rectangular hyperbola, shown by **Diagram IV**.

2. (2013)

In a garrison, there was food for 1000 soldiers for one month. After 10 days, 1000 more soldiers joined the garrison. How long would the soldiers be able to carry on with the remaining food?

- A. 25 days
- B. 20 days
- C. 15 days
- D. 10 days

Answer: D. 10 days

Explanation:

Taking one month as 30 days:

Total food = $1000 \times 30 = 30,000$ soldier-days.

Food consumed in 10 days = 10,000 soldier-days.

Remaining = 20,000 soldier-days.

Now there are 2,000 soldiers.

Remaining duration = $20,000 \div 2,000 = 10$ days.

3. (2015)

Two pipes A and B can independently fill a tank completely in 20 and 30 minutes respectively. If both the pipes are opened simultaneously, how much time will they take to fill the tank completely?

- A. 10 minutes
- B. 12 minutes

- C. 15 minutes
D. 25 minutes

Answer: B. 12 minutes

Explanation:

A's rate = $1/20$ tank per minute.

B's rate = $1/30$ tank per minute.

Together:

$$1/20 + 1/30 = 3/60 + 2/60 = 5/60 = 1/12.$$

Therefore, the tank is filled in **12 minutes**.

4. (2016)

Ram and Shyam work on a job together for four days and complete 60% of it. Ram takes leave then and Shyam works for eight more days to complete the job. How long would Ram take to complete the entire job alone?

- A. 6 days
B. 8 days
C. 10 days
D. 11 days

Answer: C. 10 days

Explanation:

Together they complete 60% in 4 days.

Combined rate = $60/4 = 15\%$ per day.

The remaining work is 40%, completed by Shyam in 8 days.

Shyam's rate = $40/8 = 5\%$ per day.

Therefore Ram's rate = $15\% - 5\% = 10\%$ per day.

Ram alone therefore takes **10 days**.

5. (2016)

W can do 25% of a work in 30 days, X can do $1/4$ of the work in 10 days, Y can do 40% of the work in 40 days and Z can do $1/3$ of the work in 13 days. Who will complete the work first?

- A. W
B. X
C. Y
D. Z

Answer: D. Z

Explanation:

- W: 25% in 30 days $\rightarrow$ 100% in 120 days.
- X: 25% in 10 days $\rightarrow$ 100% in 40 days.
- Y: 40% in 40 days $\rightarrow$ 100% in 100 days.
- Z: $1/3$ in 13 days $\rightarrow$ complete work in 39 days.

Z requires the least time, **39 days**.

Hence, **D**.

6. (2017)

There are three pillars X, Y and Z of different heights. Three spiders A, B and C start to climb on these pillars simultaneously. In one chance, A climbs on X by 6 cm but slips down 1 cm. B climbs on Y by 7 cm but slips down 3 cm. C climbs on Z by 6.5 cm but slips down 2 cm. If each of them requires 40 chances to reach the top of the pillars, what is the height of the shortest pillar?

- A. 161 cm
B. 163 cm
C. 182 cm
D. 210 cm

Answer: B. 163 cm

Subject B -Logical Reasoning

TOPIC-WISE SEGREGATION

S. No	Topics /Subtopics	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
1	Alphabet & Position	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	Blood Relations	3	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	16
3	Bridge & Torch Puzzles	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4	Cause & Effect	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	Circular Movement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
6	Classification & Grouping	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
7	Coding-Decoding	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	3	1	18
8	Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
9	Conditional Logic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	Cubes & Dice	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	14
11	Data Sufficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	3	6	6	10	5	5	43
12	Deduction & Logic	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
13	Direction Sense	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	2	0	1	17
14	Grouping & Allocation	0	3	1	1	0	11	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	29
15	Logical Conditions	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
16	Mathematical Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	7

Topic 07— Coding-Decoding

Total: 18 PYQs

2015 — Q75

Letter / Number Coding

Two men, Anil and David, and two women, Shabnam and Rekha are in a sales group. Only two speak Tamil. The other two speak Marathi. Only one man and one woman can drive a car. Shabnam speaks Marathi. Anil speaks Tamil. Both Rekha and David can drive. Which of the following statements is true?

Options:

- A. Both the Tamil speakers can drive a car.
- B. Both the Marathi speakers can drive a car.
- C. Both of those who can drive a car speak Marathi.
- D. One of those who can drive a car speaks Tamil.

Answer: D — One of those who can drive a car speaks Tamil.

Explanation: Rekha and David are the two drivers. Anil is Tamil and Shabnam is Marathi, so among Rekha and David, one must be Tamil and the other Marathi. Hence exactly **one driver speaks Tamil**.

2016 — Q61

Letter Rearrangement

A military code writes SYSTEM as SYSMET and NEARER as AENRER. Using the same code, FRACTION can be written as:

Options:

- A. CARFTION
- B. FRACNOIT
- C. NOITCARF
- D. CARFNOIT

Answer: D — CARFNOIT.

Explanation: Divide the word into two equal halves and reverse each half.

FRACTION → FRAC | TION → CARF | NOIT → CARFNOIT.

2017 — Q60

Code Comparison

In a certain code, '256' means 'red colour chalk', '589' means 'green colour flower' and '254' means 'white colour chalk'. The digit in the code that indicates 'white' is

Options:

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 8

Answer: B — 4.

Explanation:

256 = red + colour + chalk

254 = white + colour + chalk

The common digits 2 and 5 represent **colour** and **chalk**. Therefore the remaining digit **4** represents **white**.

2018 — Q21

Coding-Decoding

If LSJXVC is the code for MUMBAI,
the code for DELHI is

Options:

- A. CCIDD
- B. CDKGH
- C. CCJFG
- D. CCIFE

Answer: A — CCIDD.

Explanation: The shifts from MUMBAI to LSJXVC are -1, -2, -3, -4, -5 and -6 respectively.

Applying the same positional shifts:

D-1=C, E-2=C, L-3=I, H-4=D, I-5=D.

Therefore **DELHI** → **CCIDD**.

2018 — Q22

Coding-Decoding

If RAMON is written as 12345 and
DINESH as 675849, then HAMAM
will be written as

Options:

- A. 92233
- B. 92323
- C. 93322
- D. 93232

Answer: B — 92323.

Explanation: From RAMON:

R=1, A=2, M=3, O=4, N=5.

From DINESH:

D=6, I=7, N=5, E=8, S=4, H=9.

Therefore:

H A M A M = 9 2 3 2 3 = 92323.

2019 — Q40

Letter Case Coding

If every alternative letter of the English alphabet from B onwards (including B) is written in lower case (small letters) and the remaining letters are capitalized, then how is the first month of the second half of the year written?

Options:

- A. JuLY
- B. jULy
- C. jUly
- D. jUIY

Answer: D — jUIY.

Explanation: Starting from B, alternate letters are lowercase:

A = capital, B = small, C = capital, D = small, and so on.

July is J U L Y. Their cases become:

j U l Y → jUIY.

2020 — Q48

Letter-Number Coding

The letters from A to Z are numbered from 1 to 26 respectively. If GHI = 1578 and DEF = 912, then what is ABC equal to?

Options:

- A. 492
- B. 468
- C. 262

R→S
O→N

Apply the same rule to STOP:

S→T
T→S
O→P
P→O

Therefore **STOP → TSPO**.

Topic 08 — Communication

Total: 4 PYQs

2026 — Q72

Communication Types

Set-D equivalent: Q52

Match List-I with List-II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List-I (Relationship category)

- A. Between cricket captain and team members
- B. Between judge and lawyers in court
- C. Between Vice Chancellor and Deputy Registrar
- D. Between peers and coworkers

List-II (Communication type)

- 1. Informal and firm
- 2. Informal and open-ended
- 3. Formal and open-ended
- 4. Formal and firm

Code:

Options:

- A. A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2
- B. A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2
- C. A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1
- D. A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1

Answer: **B — A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2.**

Explanation

- Cricket captain → team members: **informal and firm**
- Judge → lawyers: **formal and firm**
- Vice Chancellor → Deputy Registrar: **formal and open-ended**
- Peers/coworkers: **informal and open-ended**

Hence **A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2 → Option B.**

2026 — Q73

Tools of Communication

Set-D equivalent: Q53

Match List-I with List-II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List-I (Tool of communication)

- A. Memorandum
- B. Flyer
- C. Bcc
- D. Minutes

List-II (Purpose)

- 1. To record decisions
- 2. To inform confidentially
- 3. To intimate a directive
- 4. To disseminate non-targeted information

Topic 18 — Network & Route Problems

The controlling classification workbook contains 9 PYQs under this topic:

- 2012 — 1
- 2013 — 4
- 2014 — 1
- 2017 — 3

Total: 9

2012 — Q40

Question

Only six roads A, B, C, P, Q and R connect a military camp to the rest of the country. Only one out of A, P and R is open at any one time. If B is closed, so is Q. Only one of A and B is open during storms. P is closed during floods. In this context, which one of the following statements is correct?

Options

- A. Under normal conditions only three roads are open.
- B. During storms at least one road is open.
- C. During floods only three roads are open.
- D. During calamities all roads are closed.

Answer: B — During storms at least one road is open.

Explanation:

At any time exactly one of A, P and R is open. Therefore, even during a storm, at least one road from this group remains open. Hence at least one road is necessarily open during storms.

2013 — Common Transport Network

The following **common setup** applies to Q11–Q14:

Five cities P, Q, R, S and T are connected by different modes of transport as follows:

1. P and Q are connected by boat as well as rail.
2. S and R are connected by bus and boat.
3. Q and T are connected by air only.
4. P and R are connected by boat only.
5. T and R are connected by rail and bus.

This setup is reproduced in the 2013 paper sources.

2013 — Q11

Question

Which mode of transport would help one to reach R starting from Q, but without changing the mode of transport?

Options

- A. Boat
- B. Rail
- C. Bus
- D. Air

Answer: A — Boat.

Explanation:

$Q \rightarrow P$ can be travelled by boat, and $P \rightarrow R$ is also by boat. Thus $Q \rightarrow P \rightarrow R$ can be completed without changing the mode of transport.

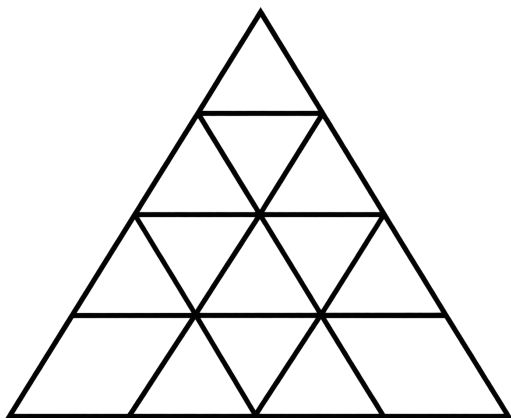
2013 — Q12

Question

Q50 — Counting triangles

Question

Consider the following figure and answer the item that follows. What is the total number of triangles in the above grid?



Options

- A. 27
- B. 26
- C. 23
- D. 22

Answer: C — 23.

Explanation:

Counting by size gives 12 small triangles, 7 of the next size, 3 larger triangles and 1 largest triangle:

$$12 + 7 + 3 + 1 = 23.$$

2012

Q45 — Figure sequence

Question

The elements of the problem figures given below are changing with a certain rule as we observe them from left to right.

According to this rule, which of the following would be the next figure if the changes were continued with the same rule?



According to this rule, which of the following would be the next figure if the changes were continued with the same rule?

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

Answer: D.

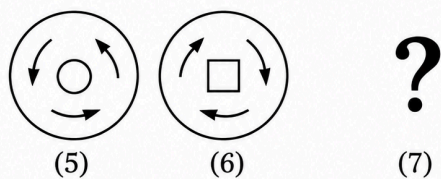
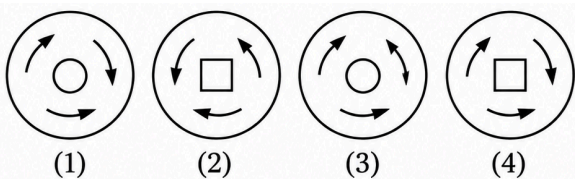
Explanation:

The position and orientation of the component shapes follow a repeating transformation. Continuing that transformation produces **option D**.

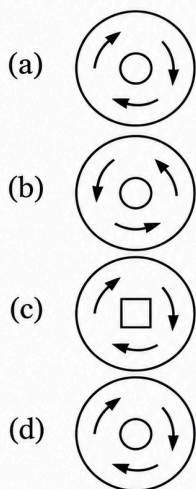
Q50 — Matrix

Question

Which one of the figures shown below occupies the blank space (?) in the matrix given above?



Which one of the following figures would logically come in the 7th position indicated above by a question mark ?



Answer: D.

Explanation:

The central shape alternates between the two forms, while the arrows follow their own repeating directional cycle. Continuing both patterns to position 7 gives option D.

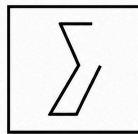
2014

Q39 — Embedded figure

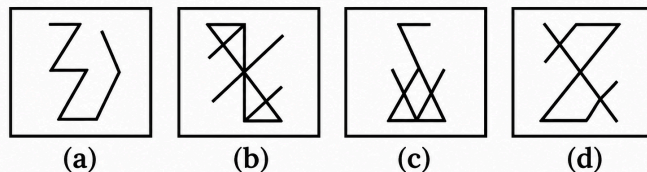
Question

Examine the following figure. Which one of the following figures has the above figure embedded in it?

Examine the following figure :



Which one of the following figures has the above figure embedded in it ?



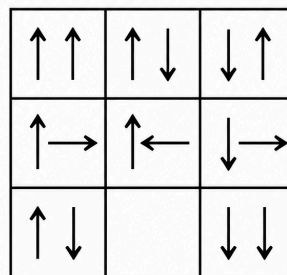
Answer: C.

Explanation:

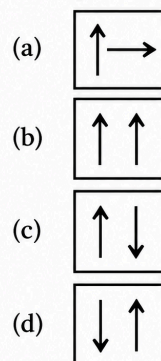
The target figure can be traced continuously within option C, with its constituent lines and angles preserved.

Q40 — Matrix

Consider the following matrix :



Which one of the following figures fits into the blank part of the above matrix ?



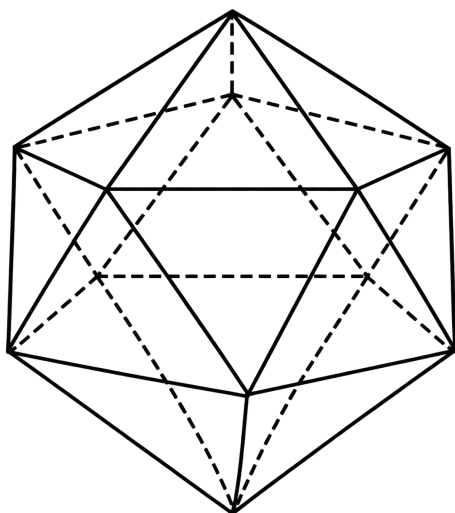
Answer: B.

2018

Q1 — Three-dimensional figure

Question

Consider the following three-dimensional figure:



How many triangles does the above figure have?

Options

- A. 18
- B. 20
- C. 22
- D. 24

Answer: B — 20.

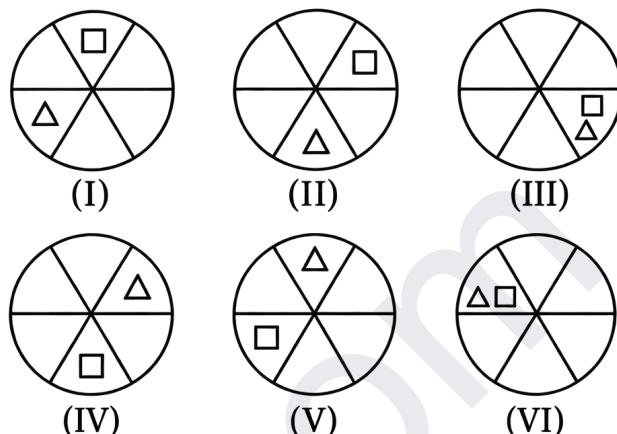
Explanation:

The figure contains multiple triangular faces formed by its visible and intersecting edges. Counting all distinct triangles gives **20**.

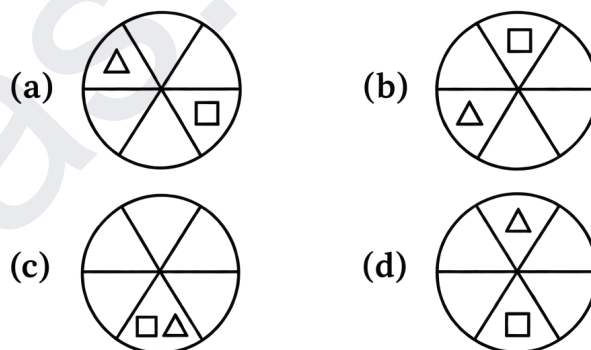
Q70 — Figure sequence

Question

Consider the following figures:



In the figures (I) to (VI) above, some parts are shown to change their positions in regular directions. Following the same sequence, which of the figures given below will appear at (VII) stage?



Answer: B.

Explanation:

The component shapes move systematically from one position to another. Continuing the established movement from VI to VII produces **option B**.

2026

Q34 — Coloured rods

Question

Answer: C. 65

2. 2015 — Q68

Question

Between 6 PM and 7 PM the minute hand of a clock will be ahead of the hour hand by 3 minutes at

Options

- A. 6:15 PM
- B. 6:18 PM
- C. 6:36 PM
- D. 6:48 PM

Answer: C. 6:36 PM

Explanation

At 6:00 PM, the hour hand is 180 degrees ahead of the minute hand.

The minute hand must gain 180 degrees plus 18 degrees.

18 degrees corresponds to 3 minutes on the clock.

Required gain = 198 degrees.

Relative speed of minute hand over hour hand = 5.5 degrees per minute.

Time = $198 / 5.5 = 36$ minutes.

Therefore, the time is:

6:36 PM

Answer: C. 6:36 PM

3. 2017 — Q31

Question

A watch loses 2 minutes in every 24 hours while another watch gains 2 minutes in every 24 hours. At a particular instant, the two watches showed an identical time. Which of the following statements is correct if 24-hour clock is followed?

Options

- A. The two watches show the identical time again on completion of 30 days.
- B. The two watches show the identical time again on completion of 90 days.
- C. The two watches show the identical time again on completion of 120 days.
- D. None of the above statements is correct.

Answer: D. None of the above statements is correct

Explanation

One watch loses 2 minutes every day.

The other watch gains 2 minutes every day.

Therefore, the difference between the two watches increases by:

$2 + 2 = 4$ minutes per day.

A 24-hour clock repeats its displayed time after:

24 hours = 1440 minutes.

Therefore:

$1440 / 4 = 360$ days.

The watches will show the same time again after 360 days.

None of the options gives 360 days.

Subject C -Data Interpretation

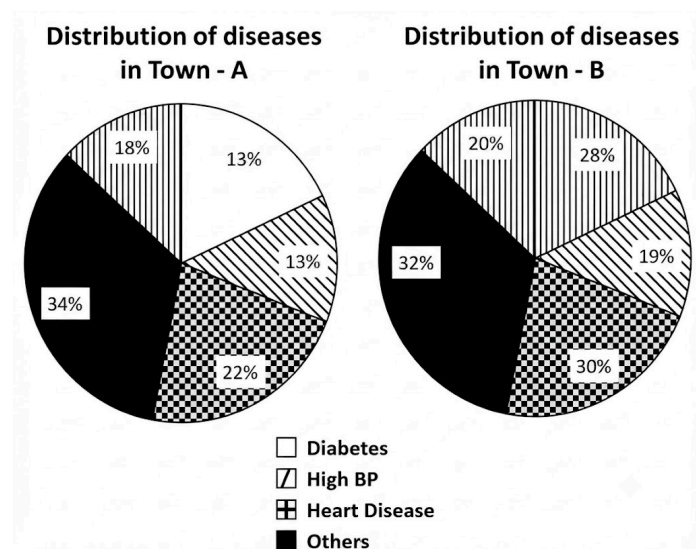
TOPIC-WISE SEGREGATION

Topic 1 — Data Interpretation

Total Questions: 12

Years asked: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2020, 2024, 2026.

Q1. Which of the two towns has a higher number of persons with Diabetes? (2011)



The following pie charts show the break-up of disease categories among patients from **Town A and Town B**. The charts show disease categories as percentages of total patients.

Options:

- A. Town A
- B. Town B
- C. Same in Town A and Town B
- D. No inference can be drawn

Answer: D — No inference can be drawn

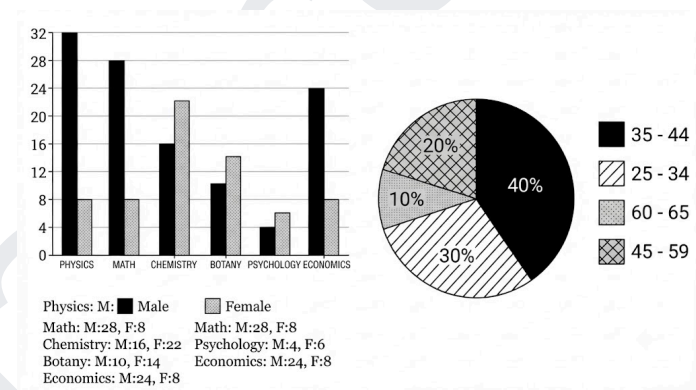
Explanation:

The pie charts give only the **percentage distribution**

of diseases. The total number of patients in Town A and Town B is not given. Therefore, even if the percentage of diabetic patients is higher in one town, its actual number could still be lower. Hence, no definite comparison of the number of diabetic persons can be made.

Q2. Which one of the following disciplines has the highest ratio of males to females? (2013)

From the given data on university professors:



Options:

- A. Physics
- B. Mathematics
- C. Chemistry
- D. Economics

Answer: A — Physics

Explanation:

Male-to-female ratios are compared for each discipline. Physics has the highest ratio: **32 males : 8 females = 4:1**. The corresponding ratios for Mathematics, Chemistry and Economics are lower. Therefore, **Physics** has the highest male-to-female ratio.

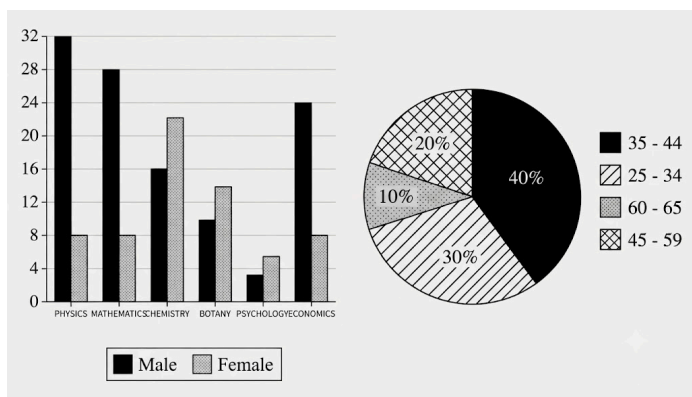
Q3. What percentage of all Psychology professors are females? (2013)

Topic 3 — Data Interpretation: Pie Charts

Total Questions: 3

Years asked: 2013, 2021, 2022.

Q1. How many Physics professors belong to the age group 35–44? (2013)



Options:

- A. 18
- B. 16
- C. 14
- D. 12

Answer: B — 16

Explanation:

From the given figures, there are **32 male + 8 female = 40 Physics professors**. The age distribution shows that **40%** of Physics professors belong to the 35–44 age group.

$$40\% \times 40 = 16 \quad \therefore 40\% \times 40 = 16$$

Therefore, **16 Physics professors** belong to the 35–44 age group.

Q2. A pie diagram shows the percentage distribution of proteins, water and other dry elements in the human body. Given that proteins correspond to 16% and water corresponds to 70%. If both proteins and the other dry elements correspond to $p\%$, then what is the central angle of the sector representing p on the pie diagram? (2021)

Options:

- A. 54°
- B. 96°
- C. 108°
- D. 120°

Answer: C — 108°

Q3. A pie chart gives the expenditure on five different items A, B, C, D and E in a household. If B, C, D and E correspond to 90° , 50° , 45° and 75° respectively, then what is the percentage of expenditure on item A? (2022)

Options:

- A. $112/9\%$
- B. $125/6\%$
- C. $155/9\%$
- D. $250/9\%$

Answer: D — $250/9\%$

Explanation:

Total angle for B, C, D and E:

$$90 + 50 + 45 + 75 = 260^\circ \quad \therefore 90 + 50 + 45 + 75 = 260^\circ$$

Therefore, A represents:

$$360 - 260 = 100^\circ \quad \therefore 360 - 260 = 100^\circ$$

Percentage expenditure on A:

Subject D -Decision Making

Topic 1 — Administrative Ethics

Total: 12 questions from the classification. The Habitat IAS topic page also currently lists **12 PYQs** under Administrative Ethics.

2011

Q1 — Official meeting

You have been asked to give an explanation for not attending an important official meeting. Your immediate boss, who has not informed you about the meeting, is now putting pressure on you not to place an allegation against him/her. You would

- A. Send a written reply explaining the fact.
- B. Seek an appointment with the top boss to explain the situation.
- C. Admit your fault to save the situation.
- D. Put the responsibility on the coordinator of the meeting for not informing.

Answer: B

Explanation: Since the immediate superior is pressuring you, the appropriate course is to report the facts to a higher authority through a formal channel rather than accepting blame or shifting responsibility.

Q2 — Illegal construction and threat

A local thug has started illegal construction on your vacant plot. He has refused your request to vacate and threatened you with dire consequences if you do not sell the property to him at a cheap price. You would

- A. Sell the property at a cheap price to him.
- B. Go to the police for necessary action.

- C. Ask for help from your neighbours.
- D. Negotiate with the goon to get a higher price.

Answer: B

Explanation: The matter involves illegal construction and intimidation. Resorting to the lawful authority—the police—is the appropriate institutional response rather than negotiating with or yielding to the offender.

Q3 — Important task after an accident

You have to accomplish a very important task for your Headquarters within the next two days. Suddenly you meet with an accident. Your office insists that you complete the task. You would

- A. Ask for an extension of deadline.
- B. Inform Headquarters of your inability to finish on time.
- C. Suggest an alternate person to Headquarters who may do the needful.
- D. Stay away till you recover.

Answer: C

Explanation: Since the accident prevents timely completion, suggesting an alternate person ensures that the important task can still be completed instead of simply abandoning it.

Q4 — Allegation of corruption in relief work

You are an officer-in-charge for providing basic medical facilities to survivors of an earthquake-affected area. Despite your best effort, people allege that you are making money from relief funds. You would

- A. Let an enquiry be set up to look into the matter.
- B. Ask your senior to appoint someone else in your place.
- C. Not pay attention to allegations.

Topic-1 MAIN IDEA / CENTRAL MESSAGE / THEME

2026 , Total: 2 questions

Q27 [2026] — Writer's Intent / Main Idea

Complete Passage

When SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in 2019, it was a truly novel virus for the world. At that time, no one in the world had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or had specific immunity against it. In contrast, people across the world had been exposed to HMPV for decades and HMPV and SARS-CoV-2 belong to two very different virus families with fundamentally different characteristics and epidemiology, with SARS-CoV-2 causing a much higher burden of disease. Both viruses cause symptoms of respiratory illness, particularly over the long term, and affect the population segments differently. In general, HMPV causes milder illness with deaths being very rare and with no long-term post-viral symptoms. 2026

Question 27

Which of the following reflect the intent of the writer in the above passage?

1. To evolve methodologies for objective analysis of the two viruses.
2. To establish the epidemiological similarities and differences between the two viruses.
3. To offer a better understanding of the remedies of HMPV when analysed in conjunction with SARS-CoV-2.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3

- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d) None of the above

Explanation

The passage primarily **describes and contrasts** SARS-CoV-2 and HMPV in terms of novelty, exposure, virus families, epidemiology and disease burden. It does not propose analytical methodologies or discuss remedies for HMPV. Therefore, none of the three stated intentions accurately represents the passage's purpose. 2026

Q52 [2026] — Main Idea / Author's Viewpoint

Complete Passage

Previous waves of customer-service technology, including email and those pesky voice menus, stoked concerns of job losses, only for them to fail to materialise. AI could yet prove different. And if it does, its effects may be salutary. Human agents could be freed up to spend more time on creative and rewarding tasks, like using feedback to make products and services better—and thereby spend less time listening to irate customers! 2026

Question 52

Which one among the following statements most appropriately reflects the point of view of the given passage?

- (a) If AI were to take over customer service, there would be no work left for human subjects to do.
- (b) Irritating voice menus and email could not achieve human redundancy to the extent that AI might.
- (c) The value of human intervention in the workplace affected by AI might be enhanced through redirection towards more fulfilling tasks.

(d) Unlike previous waves in customer-service technology, AI has raised the alarm of worker replacement.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The passage does not present AI merely as a replacement for human workers. Instead, it suggests that AI could automate repetitive customer-service tasks and allow human agents to devote more time to **creative, rewarding and productive work**. Thus, AI may enhance the value of human intervention through task redirection

Total: 14 questions , 2025

Q1 [2025] — Main Idea / Central Idea

Passage

Maintaining an ecosystem just to conserve biodiversity will affect its commercial potential as well as the livelihoods dependent on the ecosystem. There is also a conflict between using an ecosystem only for livelihoods, for commercial exploitation, or strictly for conservation. Deforestation caused due to commercial exploitation will lead to indirect harm like floods, siltation problems and microclimatic instability, apart from adversely affecting livelihoods dependent on forests. These conflicts are particularly acute in developing countries where the dependence of people on the ecosystem is significant, and commercial exploitation has the potential to boost national income. 2025(3)

Q1. Which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message conveyed by the author of the passage?

(a) Conservation of biodiversity is not an issue when people depend on ecosystems for their livelihood.

(b) Commercial exploitation of ecosystems violates the fundamental rights of forest-dependent people.

(c) Sustenance of livelihood and degradation of ecosystem being together exacerbate one another leading to conflicts and imbalance.

(d) Commercial exploitation of ecosystems should be completely stopped.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The passage highlights the conflict between conservation, commercial exploitation and livelihoods. Excessive exploitation can degrade ecosystems, which subsequently harms livelihoods and creates further conflict. The author therefore emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship between livelihood dependence, ecosystem degradation and resulting imbalance. 2025(3)

Q3 [2025] — Main Idea / Central Idea

Passage

The history of renewable energy suggests there is a steep learning curve, meaning that, as more is produced, costs fall rapidly because of economies of scale and learning by doing. The firms' green innovation is path-dependent: the more a firm does, the more it is likely to do in the future. The strongest evidence for this is the collapse in the price of solar energy, which became about 90% cheaper during the 2010s, repeatedly beating forecasts. Moving early and gradually gives economies more time to adjust, allowing them to reap the benefits of path-dependent green investment without much disruption. A late, more chaotic transition is costlier. 2025(3)

Q3. Which one of the following statements best reflects the central idea of the passage?

(a) Economies of scale are essential for the transition to green growth.

(b) Modern technological progress is intensely linked to

TOPIC 2 — INFERENCE / IMPLICATION

2026 UPSC CSAT RC — Inference / Conclusion

Total: 9 questions

Q6 [2026] — Inference / Conclusion

Complete Passage

‘Kalagram’, the cultural village set up at the Maha Kumbh Mela, unfolded as a mosaic of India's diverse regions, each represented by seven meticulously crafted ‘Sanskriti Angans’ depicting through the grand portal was like entering another world. These thematic zones, inspired by iconic temples like Dakshineswar Kali Temple and Brahma Mandir, were a treasure trove of traditional artistry. Bengal's Pattachitra paintings, Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur paintings, Assam's bamboo crafts and Madhya Pradesh's tribal sculptures showcased the rich tapestry of India's ancient techniques, their hands shaping India's ancient history into storytelling. 2026

Question 6

Which of the following conclusions are valid?

1. Seven Sanskriti Angans, representing different regions of India, had been showcased in Kalagram.
2. Regional artistry was recognised via inspiration drawn from iconic temples.
3. India's ancient history has been connected to the contemporary craftsmanship of 30 artisans in the galleries.
4. Art forms from all regions of India have been showcased in these galleries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4

- (c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

The passage explicitly mentions **seven Sanskriti Angans** representing different regions and says the thematic zones were inspired by iconic temples. It does not mention 30 artisans or claim that art forms from **all** Indian regions were represented. Therefore, statements 1 and 2 are valid. 2026

Q11 [2026] — Inference / Conclusion

Complete Passage

Sport is not just about winning medals or getting jobs through a sports quota. Today's generation is struggling with issues like depression and anxiety. Parents often say that their children are inactive and rarely leave the house. Sport can help tackle these problems. From sport you can learn time management, fitness, teamwork, coordination, and so much more. We need to develop a culture in which sport is seen as a way of life—a path to building a healthier, happier society. 2026

Question 11

Which of the following conclusions are valid?

1. Sport is more than just games; it is a way of life.
2. Sport can help mitigate the problems of seclusion among the young.
3. Earning laurels in sport can help one secure a job on the basis of an assigned quota.
4. Standard corporate sector skills cannot be learnt through sport.

Select the answer using the code given below:

includes nitrous oxide from fertilizers, methane from livestock, rice production and manure management, and nitrous oxide from crop residue burning and fossil fuel use. About 17 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions each year, three quarters of which come from tropical deforestation. The remainder is largely from draining and burning tropical peatland. About the same amount of carbon is stored in the world's peatlands as is stored in the Amazon rainforest.

Question

Q48. Which among the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage? (2016)

- (a) Organic farming should immediately replace mechanised and chemical dependent agricultural practices all over the world.
- (b) It is imperative for us to modify our land use practices in order to mitigate climate change.
- (c) There are no technological solutions to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions.
- (d) Tropical areas are the chief sites of carbon sequestration.

Answer: B

Explanation

The passage identifies agriculture, deforestation, peatland drainage and burning as significant sources of greenhouse-gas emissions.

Therefore, an appropriate inference is that **land-use practices need to be modified to mitigate climate change**.

The passage does not establish that organic farming must immediately replace all mechanised/chemical agriculture, nor does it say technological solutions do not exist.

Answer: B.

Q66. Author's Implication (2016)

Passage

“The conceptual difficulties in National Income comparisons between underdeveloped and industrialised countries are particularly serious because a part of the national output in various underdeveloped countries is produced without passing through the commercial channels.”

Question

Q66. In the above statement, the author implies that: (2016)

- (a) The entire national output produced and consumed in industrialized countries passes through commercial channels.
- (b) The existence of a non-commercialized sector in different underdeveloped countries renders the national income comparisons over countries difficult.
- (c) No part of national output should be produced and consumed without passing through commercial channels.
- (d) A part of the national output being produced and consumed without passing through commercial channels is a sign of underdevelopment.

Answer: B

Explanation

The key point is the difficulty of comparing national income when some production in underdeveloped economies occurs **outside commercial channels**.

Such non-commercial production may not be adequately captured in conventional national-income measurements.

Therefore:

Answer: B.

Q67. Logical Corollary (2016)

Passage

An increase in human-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could initiate a chain reaction between plants and microorganisms that would unsettle one of the largest carbon reservoirs on the planet — soil. In a study, it was found that the soil, which contains twice the amount of carbon present in all plants and Earth's atmosphere combined, could become increasingly volatile as people add more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. This is largely because of increased plant growth. Although a greenhouse gas and a pollutant, carbon dioxide also supports plant growth. As trees and other vegetation flourish in a carbon dioxide-rich future, their roots could stimulate microbial activity in soil that may in turn accelerate the decomposition of soil carbon and its release into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

Question

Q67. Which among the following is the most logical corollary to the above passage? (2016)

- (a) Carbon dioxide is essential for the survival of microorganisms and plants
- (b) Humans are solely responsible for the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- (c) Microorganisms and soil carbon are mainly responsible for the increased plant growth
- (d) Increasing green cover could trigger the release of carbon trapped in soil

Answer: D

Explanation

The passage gives a chain:

More atmospheric CO₂ → increased plant growth → greater root activity → increased microbial activity → faster decomposition of soil carbon → release of CO₂.

Therefore, increasing vegetation/green cover can under the described conditions contribute to the release of carbon stored in soil.

Answer: D.

2015 — RC Topic-Wise

Topic 1: Inference

Total primary inference questions: 10

Questions: Q4, Q23, Q25, Q26, Q41, Q42, Q43, Q62, Q66, Q67.

Q4. Critical Inference (2015)

Passage

India accounts for nearly a fifth of the world's children. In terms of number, it is the highest in the world—nearly 16 lakhs every year. Of these, more than half die in the first month of life. Officials believe that the reason for this is the absence of steps to propagate basic health practices relating to breast feeding and immunisation. Also the large reproductive population of 2-3 crore remains bereft of antenatal care during the critical phase of pregnancy and post-delivery. Added to this is the prevalence of child marriages, anaemia among young women and lack of focus on adolescent sanitation, all of which impact child death rates.

Question 4 (2015)

Which is the critical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) A lot of Indians are illiterate and hence do not recognize the value of basic health practices.

violated. In all cases, it is the adult society which must act on behalf of the child.

In another peculiarity, where a child's right to education is denied, no compensation offered later can be adequate or relevant. This is so because childhood does not last. If a legal battle fought on behalf of a child is eventually won, it may be of little use to the boy or girl because the opportunity missed at school during childhood cannot serve the same purpose later in life. This may be painfully true for girls because our society permits them only a short childhood, if at all.

The Right to Education (RTE) has become law at a point in India's history when the ghastly practice of female infanticide has resurfaced in the form of foeticide. This is "symptomatic of a deeper turmoil" in society which is compounding the traditional obstacles to the education of girls. Tenacious prejudice against the intellectual potential of girls runs across our cultural diversity and the system of education has not been able to address it.

Q56. Which one of the following statements conveys the inference of the passage?

- A. The society has a tenacious prejudice against the intellectual potential of girls.
- B. Adults cannot be relied upon to fight on behalf of children for their Right to Education.
- C. The legal fight to get education for children is often protracted and prohibitive.
- D. There is no sufficient substitute for education received in childhood.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage emphasizes that childhood is temporary and that educational opportunities lost during childhood cannot be adequately recovered later.

TOPIC 3 — DIRECT / FACTUAL COMPREHENSION

2026 Total: 9 questions

Q7 [2026] — Direct Comprehension

Complete Passage

'Kalagram', the cultural village set up at the Maha Kumbh Mela, unfolded as a mosaic of India's diverse regions, each represented by seven meticulously crafted 'Sanskriti Angans' depicting through the grand portal was like entering another world. These thematic zones, inspired by iconic temples like Dakshineswar Kali Temple and Brahma Mandir, were a treasure trove of traditional artistry. Bengal's Pattachitra paintings, Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur paintings, Assam's bamboo crafts and Madhya Pradesh's tribal sculptures showcased the rich tapestry of India's ancient techniques, their hands shaping India's ancient history into storytelling. 2026

Question 7

Which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Paintings from four States of India have been mentioned.
- (b) Stepping into Kalagram is likened to stepping into another world.
- (c) The Angans have been described as living galleries.
- (d) Kalagram is divided into thematic zones, inspired by well-known temples of India.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

The passage mentions **Bengal's Pattachitra paintings** and **Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur paintings**. Assam is represented through bamboo crafts and Madhya Pradesh through tribal sculptures. Therefore, paintings from four

taxpayer is ever present. There is also the conflict of interest between government as an owner and as the regulator. The formulation and implementation of competition policy will be more vigorous and fair if government companies are out of action.

Question

The portfolio composition of the government refers to

- A. Public sector assets quality.
- B. Investment in liquid assets.
- C. Mix of government investment in different industrial sectors.
- D. Buying Return on Investment yielding capital assets.

Answer: C

Q71. (2014)

Full RC Passage

In front of us was walking a bare-headed old man in tattered clothes. He was driving his beasts. They were all laden with heavy loads of clay from the hills and looked tired. The man carried a long whip which perhaps he himself had made. As he walked down the road he stopped now and then to eat the wild berries that grew on bushes along the uneven road. When he threw away the seeds, the bold birds would fly to peck at them. Sometimes a stray dog watched the procession philosophically and then began to bark. When this happened, my two little sons would stand still holding my hands firmly. A dog can sometimes be dangerous indeed.

Question

The expression “a stray dog watched the procession philosophically” means that

- A. the dog was restless and ferocious.
- B. the dog stood aloof, looking at the procession with seriousness.
- C. the dog looked at the procession with big, wondering eyes.
- D. the dog stood there with his eyes closed.

Answer: C

Q75. (2014)

Full RC Passage

Cynthia was a shy girl. She believed that she was plain and untalented. One day her teacher ordered the entire class to show up for audition for the school play. Cynthia nearly died of fright when she was told that she would have to stand on stage in front of the entire class and deliver dialogues. The mere thought of it made her feel sick. But a remarkable transformation occurred during the audition. A thin, shy girl, her knees quaking, her stomach churning in terror, began to stun everyone with her excellent performance. Her bored classmates suddenly stopped their noisy chat to stare at her slender figure on the stage. At the end of her audition, the entire room erupted in thunderous applause.

Question

The transformation that occurred during the audition refers to

- A. the nervousness of Cynthia.
- B. the eruption of the entire room in thunderous applause.
- C. the surprise on the faces of her classmates.
- D. the stunning performance of Cynthia.

Answer: D

2013 onwards

Original Full RC

A number of empirical studies find that farmers are risk-averse, though only moderately in many cases. There is also evidence to show that farmers' risk aversion results in cropping patterns and input use designed to reduce risk rather than to maximize income. Farmers adopt a number of strategies to manage and cope with agricultural risks. These include practices like crop and field diversification, non-farm employment, storage of stocks and strategic migration of family members. There are also institutions ranging from share tenancy to kinship, extended family and informal credit agencies.

One major obstacle to risk sharing by farmers is that the same type of risks can affect a large number of farmers in the region. Empirical studies show that the traditional methods are not adequate. Hence there is a need for policy interventions, especially measures that cut across geographical regions.

Policies may aim at tackling agricultural risks directly or indirectly. Examples of risk-specific policies are crop

insurance, price stabilization and the development of varieties resistant to pests and diseases. Policies which affect risk indirectly are irrigation, subsidized credit and access to information. No single risk-specific policy is sufficient to reduce risk and is without side-effects, whereas policies not specific to risk influence the general situation and affect risks only indirectly.

Crop insurance, as a policy measure to tackle agricultural risk directly, deserves careful consideration in the Indian context and in many other developing countries because the majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture and in many areas yield variability is the predominant cause of their income instability.

Q7. (2013)

The need for policy intervention to mitigate risks in agriculture is because

- A. farmers are extremely risk-averse.
- B. farmers do not know how to mitigate risks.
- C. the methods adopted by farmers and existing risk sharing institutions are not adequate.
- D. majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage explicitly says the traditional methods are inadequate and therefore policy intervention is needed.

Crude mineral oil comes out of the earth as a thick brown or black liquid with a strong smell. It is a complex mixture of many different substances, each with its own individual qualities. Most of them are combinations of hydrogen and carbon in varying proportions. Such hydrocarbons are also found in other forms such as bitumen, asphalt and natural gas.

Mineral oil originates from the carcasses of tiny animals and from plants that live in the sea. Over millions of years, these dead creatures form large deposits under the sea-bed; and ocean currents cover them with a blanket of sand and silt. As this mineral hardens, it becomes sedimentary rock and effectively shuts out the oxygen, so preventing the complete decomposition of the marine deposits underneath.

The layers of sedimentary rock become thicker and heavier. Their pressure produces heat, which transforms the tiny carcasses into crude oil in a process that is still going on today.

Q32. (2013)

Mineral oil deposits under the sea do not get completely decomposed because they

- A. are constantly washed by the ocean currents.
- B. become rock and prevent oxygen from entering them.
- C. contain a mixture of hydrogen and carbon.
- D. are carcasses of organisms lying in saline conditions.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The passage states that the material hardens into sedimentary rock, which **shuts out oxygen**, preventing complete decomposition. [Habitat IAS](#)

The law in many parts of the world increasingly restricts the discharge of agricultural slurry into watercourses. The simplest and often the most economically sound practice returns the material to the land as semisolid manure or as sprayed slurry. This dilutes its concentration in the environment to what might have occurred in a more primitive and sustainable type of agriculture and converts pollutant into fertilizer. Soil microorganisms decompose the organic components of sewage and slurry and most of the mineral nutrients become available to be absorbed again by the vegetation.

The excess input of nutrients, both nitrogen and phosphorus-based, from agricultural runoff (and human sewage) has caused many 'healthy' oligotrophic lakes (low nutrient concentrations, low plant productivity with abundant water weeds, and clear water) to change to eutrophic condition where high nutrient inputs lead to high phytoplankton productivity (sometimes dominated by bloom-forming toxic species). This makes the water turbid, eliminates large plants and, in the worst