

Discursive PASSAGES

Q 1. Read the following passage:

1. In most societies that have any glimmering of civilisation, a person accused of wrong doing is given at least a nominal chance of proving his innocence. The Romans had a highly sophisticated/comprehensive system of courts and the members of their legal profession were well educated but the Saxons who followed them to rule Britain used rougher methods.
2. From about the sixth century A.D. to the eleventh the majority of the trials were in the form of cruel physical torture (carrying a piece of red hot iron, stepping barefoot and blindfold across a floor covered with red hot coals) or sometimes by a gentler method of oath-swearing.
3. The accused was ordered to bring to the Saxon authorities, a police officer or a priest could be persuaded to swear on oath or still a number of persons who would say that the accused was of good character and thus innocent. The number of persons who swore depended on the crime. A noble/a landlord or a priest counted for up to half a dozen ordinary peasants. As almost everyone lived in small villages, where almost everyone knew everyone else, and very few would risk telling a lie on oath (the people were mostly religious), the truth was generally told. If the accused could not produce enough oath helpers, he was found guilty and punished.
4. In the eleventh century the Normans introduced trial by battle in certain cases. The accused and the accuser fought with special weapons until one was dead or surrendered. It was believed that God would know the guilty and give the innocent the power to win. The whole idea became ridiculous when both the parties were allowed to hire champions who would fight on their behalf. It seemed likely whoever could pay the more for a stronger professional fighter stood a good chance of winning and judged innocent. This may sound unfair to us but there is a parallel with a wealthy person today who can hire a costly and brilliant barrister to defend him.
5. In the early middle ages when England was a land of small villages remote from each other, crime tended to be basic and direct : beating up, theft, sex and murder being the main offences. But as towns and manufacturing and commerce grew, the possibilities for cheating and fraud soared. The whole organisation of society became more complex and opened the door to a world of more sophisticated wickedness. With no regular police force, spies and informers were offered rewards when they brought in criminals.

(CBSE 2021 Term-1, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) England (or Britain) turn-by-turn came under the rule of:
 - (i) Saxons; Romans; Normans
 - (ii) Normans; Saxons; Romans
 - (iii) Romans; Saxons; Normans
 - (iv) Normans; Romans; Saxons
- (b) When did the Normans introduce trial by battle? How did it become ridiculous?
- (c) Complete the sentence appropriately.
The article describes
- (d) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of antonyms:
 - I. cruel and nominal
 - II. innocent and gentler
 - III. sometimes and peasant
 - IV. basic and complex
 - V. least and mostly
- (e) 'Any glimmering of civilisation'.
'Glimmering' in the above expression has been used as a metaphor.
Complete the sentence appropriately.
Glimmering stands for
- (f) How were the trials carried out between the sixth century A.D. and the eleventh century?
- (g) Which of the following statements are not true?
 - I. In the quest for justice the guilty often went unpunished.
 - II. For seven hundred years from the sixth century trial was mostly rough.
 - III. Swearing value of a priest was equal to a dozen ordinary peasants.
 - IV. Use of champions in a trial by battle finds an equivalent in the modern times.
 - (i) I and III
 - (ii) II and III
 - (iii) III and IV
 - (iv) I and II
- (h) Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons for the following:
The rich have always enjoyed an advantage in the judicial system.

Answers

- (a) (iii) Romans; Saxons; Normans
- (b) The Normans introduced trial by battle in certain cases in the eleventh century. It became ridiculous when both the parties were allowed to hire champions who would fight on their behalf, i.e. whoever could pay for a stronger fighter stood more chances of being judged innocent.

- (c) the development of the system of justice in England
- (d) IV. basic and complex
V. least and mostly
- (e) a great hope
- (f) The trials between the sixth century A.D. and the eleventh century were mostly carried out in the form of cruel physical torture like carrying a piece of red hot iron, stepping barefoot and blindfold across red hot coals; or sometimes by a gentler method of oath-swearing.
- (g) (ii) II and III
- (h) 1. They can hire the strongest champion.
2. They can hire the best lawyers.

Q 2. Read the following passage:

1. Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.
2. With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson ... to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots, and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into who we are.
3. Then there is the message of peaceful coexistence. 'I am because we are.' Nature provides every creature a chance to exist. However, the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope, the tiger wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the over-abundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.
4. I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay.
5. The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn, these leaves age into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.
6. Keep in mind life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live. Take a break-stop being a workaholic, and smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) According to the author, what, from the following, is the greatest lesson being taught by nature?
 - (i) Balanced in our emotions
 - (ii) Partial to joys in life
 - (iii) Afraid of unhappiness
 - (iv) Indifferent to fears.
- (b) What does 'the growth of a sapling into a full-grown tree' teach us?
- (c) Complete the dialogue with reference to paragraph 2.
 Jai: I've done well for myself in this school. I'm the best they have. I can get admission anywhere. This is my moment!
 Sid: Congratulations! Just remember, we should
- (d) Select the set with the underlined words that can suitably replace the word 'lurking' (paragraph 4).
 - I. The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
 - II. The thief knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
 - III. The policeman was caught on camera while pouncing with force, to grab the fleeing culprit.
 - IV. The thief was walking boldly into the house thinking it was devoid of residents.
 - V. The policeman was running fiercely towards the thief.
- (e) Complete the sentence appropriately.
 'I am because we are' conveys that
- (f) Substantiate the statement 'selfless assistance to help others' with references from the passage.
- (g) Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage.
 - (i) Nature: She pardons no mistakes. Her yea is yea, and her nay, nay.
 — Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - (ii) Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. —A. Einstein
 - (iii) Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves. —Jean Jacques Rousseau
 - (iv) All the ugliness of the world can best be forgotten in the beauty of nature!
 —Mehmet Murat
- (h) What does the writer advise, in paragraph 6?

Answers

- (a) (i) Balanced in our emotions
- (b) The growth of a sapling into a full-grown tree teaches us that we should keep ourselves grounded; respect and embrace our roots; and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into who we are.
- (c) respect the origins from where we have grown

- (d) II. The thief knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
- (e) everyone is dependent on each other
- (f) The passage clearly mentions that one life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay. When birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn. These actions clearly display 'selfless assistance to help others'.
- (g) (ii) Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. —A. Einstein
- (h) In paragraph 6, the writer advises us to have free time for ourselves and spend some time with nature.

COMMON ERROR

Some students choose the answer according to the general thinking or as per their own opinion. You have to choose the answer according to the information given in the passage.

TRICK

If you don't know that right word, try to find the words which are not similar in meaning to the given word. It will help you in choosing the answer.

Q 3. Read the following passage:

- The choices we make on a daily basis—wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation—can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.
- You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.
- We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realise how lines help to keep us safe.
- I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle

life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, travelling, doing speaking engagements and so on—simply exhausting myself.

5. Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.

You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologise for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

(CBSE SQP 2020, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context: "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it."

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| I. Negligent | II. Indecisive |
| III. Spontaneous | IV. Reckless |
| V. Purposeless | VI. Patient |
| (i) II and V | (ii) III and VI |
| (iii) I and IV | (iv) II and III |

- (b) What way does each of us need to be?
- (c) How does the author explain the importance of discipline and boundaries in our lives?
- (d) Complete the sentence appropriately.
The phrase 'potentially harmful circumstances' means
- (e) Complete the sentence appropriately.
When the author says, "to get our lives in order" he wants to convey that
- (f) Why did the author feel horrible?
- (g) Choose the two meanings of 'outlook', as used in the passage.
- A person's evaluation of life
 - A person's experiences in life
 - A person's point of view towards life
 - A person's regrets in life
 - A person's general attitude to life
- (h) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?
- Much too soon
 - Enough is enough
 - How much is too much
 - Have enough to do

Answers

- (a) (iii) I and IV
- (b) Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologise for it. We are not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of taking stress and pressure.
- (c) The author explains the importance of discipline and boundaries in our lives using the example of lines on the highway.

- (d) the circumstances that can be possibly dangerous
- (e) we should organise our lives
- (f) The author felt horrible, physically, most of the time because for the first twenty years of his life at work, he ignored his limits and kept pushing himself, travelling, doing speaking engagements and so on – simply exhausting himself.
- (g) III and V
- (h) (iii) How much is too much

Q 4. Read the following passage:

1. The difference in the ways of thinking and perception in the people of two different generations, which results in behavioural differences and sometimes, conflict among them is usually called generation gap.
2. Generation gap is generally seen in the family between parents and their children. It is not only because of the gap in age, but also because of the way parents react to a particular situation. Children being very young and immature do not understand the way of thinking of their parents. In many cases, the parents, even if they are matured, do not empathise with the changing values and thinking patterns of the modern world. This creates a communication gap between these two generations.
3. Generation gap between parents and children is mostly caused by parents themselves. They do not talk openly to their children and do not take part in solving their problems. This behaviour gives the impression about parents being authoritative persons, because they only dictate without understanding the problems faced by their children. As a result, the children become mentally isolated from their parents. Some parents become so busy with their work that they don't spend quality time with their family, which makes them completely unaware of how their children are growing, what kind of mentality is being developed in them, and so on. This ultimately creates a gap between them. They only realise it when it is too late.
4. Changes in technology have led to the generation gap in this modern world. Children tend to spend most of their time with their digital devices and are so busy with social media, that they do not discuss their problems with their parents. The internet provides solutions to most of the worldly problems. So children, instead of contacting their own parents, seek the help of internet in case of any problem, thus again reducing the communication, leading to a generation gap between them.
5. The generation gap has greatly increased these days because the time is changing fast and people find it difficult to cope up with his change. To overcome this problem, parents should show interest in all matters of their children and deal with them positively instead of just scolding them and leaving them alone to deal with their problems. Giving time to the children, having open communication, and allowing the child to feel free and not in any kind of pressure, will eventually reduce the generation gap to a tolerable extent.

(CBSE 2016, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) How have parents been described in the above passage?
 - (i) Timid (ii) Authoritative
 - (iii) Reliable (iv) Honest
- (b) What is generation gap?
- (c) Why do children not understand the way of thinking of their parents?
- (d) The passage includes some words that are similar in meaning to each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of synonyms:
 - I. thinking and conflict
 - II. general and particular
 - III. ultimately and eventually
 - IV. scolding and reducing
 - V. usually and generally
- (e) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Some parents do not spend quality time with their family because
- (f) Infer two reasons why children are responsible for generation gap. (Paragraph 4)
- (g) What has also led to the generation gap in the modern world?
 - (i) Social media
 - (ii) Age group
 - (iii) Work load on parents
 - (iv) Changes in technology
- (h) Complete the sentence appropriately.
The two main reasons of generation gap that we can infer are.....

Answers

- (a) (ii) Authoritative
- (b) The difference in the ways of thinking and perception in the people of two different generations, which results in behavioural differences and sometimes, conflict among them is usually called generation gap. Generation gap is usually seen between parents and their children.
- (c) Children being very young and immature do not understand the way of thinking of their parents.
- (d) III. ultimately and eventually
V. usually and generally
- (e) they become very busy with their work
- (f) 1. Children are so busy with social media that they don't discuss their problems with their parents.
2. Children instead of contacting their parents, seek the help of internet in case of any problem.
- (g) (iv) Changes in technology
- (h) the difference in the ways of thinking and the difference in ages.

Q 5. Read the following passage:

1. Mountains have always been held in great awe by mankind. They have been a challenge to humans. Those brave among us have always wanted to conquer them. You see, the more incredible the mountains, the greater the thrill – a challenge to the bravery of the human race.

Climbing mountains is an experience that is hard to put into words. You are in a beautiful environment and, when you reach the top, you feel incredible. But you also have to climb down, which is when most accidents happen—people are tired, it gets dark, it's harder. So, mountain climbing is undoubtedly one of the most popular adventure sports along with being challenging and risky for the climber.

2. Without any perceived risk, there can't be a feeling that any significant challenge has been surmounted. Fair, but we have to bear in mind that mountaineering is not a sport that can be embraced without preparation. The enthusiasts must develop in themselves the spirit of adventure, willingness to undertake hardships and risks, extraordinary powers of perseverance, endurance, and keenness of purpose before climbing a mountain. They should also know how to handle the mountaineering equipment. Then comes the penance of the rigorous training. This could very well be the lifeline up there. It helps inculcate and hone survival instincts that allow the climber to negotiate perilous situations. There are numerous institutes in India and abroad that offer such training.
3. Mountain climbers are unanimous in agreeing that the unpredictable weather is what they fear the most. There may be sunshine one moment and a snowstorm the other. At higher altitudes, snow is a regular feature and being decisive about setting up camps or proceeding further is crucial. The icy sheets after ice storms make walking treacherous, while the powdery snow makes a mountaineer sink deep into the snow. Up there, where the intention is to embrace Nature's wonder, one realises that it cannot be done without facing its formidable glory. A true mountaineer may challenge the mountain, yet is always respectful to the powerful forces of nature.
4. Summiting mountains carries its own health risks such as oxygen and altitude sickness problems, frost bites, swelling of hands and feet, fluid collection in brain or lungs and exhaustion. Yet, the gratification mountaineers feel from mastering something that is so frightening, urges them to undertake these endeavours. We may think that the mountaineers are fearless, experts say, "Not at all. It's fear that keeps them so intrigued with such arduous journeys." Impulse and brazenness can be deadly foes. In the words of the Indian mountaineer, Bachendri Pal, "The biggest risk ... is to not to take the risk at all. Remember that." (CBSE SQP 2022-23, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) **Why does the writer say that mountains inspire 'awe' in humans? (Paragraph 1)**
 - (i) They present us with opportunities for exciting sports.
 - (ii) They evoke the wish in us, to master them.
 - (iii) They inspire in us, deeds of valour.
 - (iv) They represent peace and calm, to us.
- (b) **Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says that "mountaineering is not a sport that can be embraced without preparation". (Paragraph 2)**

- (c) **The writer compares training to penance in the line:**

"Then comes the penance of the rigorous training". (Paragraph 2)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

One point of similarity between training and penance can be that it

- (d) **The passage includes some words that are similar in meaning to each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of synonyms:**

I. adventure and bear

II. conquer and surmount

III. inculcate and rigorous

IV. brave and fearless

V. numerous and unanimous

- (e) **What connect does the writer draw out between unpredictable weather and setting up of camps? (Paragraph 3)**

- (f) **Supply one point to justify the following:**

While mountain climbing, an impulsive mountaineer is either disaster-prone or as good as dead.

- (g) **The writer says, "A true mountaineer may challenge the mountain, yet is always respectful to the powerful forces of nature." (Paragraph 3)**

Complete the sentence appropriately.

Survival is the reason the mountaineer

- (h) **Evaluate the INAPPROPRIATE reason for the feeling of exhilaration on reaching a summit, that the mountain-climbers experience.**

(i) Achievement of a seemingly impossible feat

(ii) Spectacular panoramic view

(iii) Application of the inculcated survival instincts

(iv) Opportunity to use sophisticated mountaineering equipment

Answers

- (a) (ii) They evoke the wish in us, to master them.
- (b) 1. Mountaineering includes difficulties like having to walk on the icy sheet that cannot be accomplished without preparation.
2. The weather on the mountains is unpredictable which cannot be dealt in the absence of proper preparation.
- (c) requires perseverance
- (d) II. conquer and surmount
IV. brave and fearless
- (e) Unpredictable weather proves a big deterrent during the course of mountaineering as the mountaineer finds it difficult to decide when to camp.
- (f) Survival is key in mountain climbing and it can be done with meticulous planning, careful decision-making and careful application of training. It has no room for rash or impulsive decisions or actions—these would lead to accidents or fatalities.

- (g) is respectful to the forces of nature. up in the mountains.
- (h) (iv) Opportunity to use sophisticated mountaineering equipment

Q 6. Read the following passage:

- Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial to health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.
- Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connect is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
- You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain—all these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.
- We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.
- Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.
- The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature. (CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) **The writer says that the mind is at ease when you hike because:**
- hiking is an inexpensive activity.
 - it brings families together.
 - of intolerable noise of traffic.
 - the depressing daily routine is forgotten.
- (b) **List any two examples of minute observations one makes while on a hike.**
- (c) **Complete the sentence appropriately.**
The various sounds of nature

- (d) **The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of antonyms:**

I. uproar and peace

II. free and busy

III. merrily and joy

IV. excitement and interest

V. friends and associates

- (e) **Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 2.**

A contact is established between us and nature.

- (f) **Supply one point to justify the following:**

Hiking gives us a feeling of unlimited joy.

- (g) **Complete the sentence appropriately.**

It is more thrilling to hike in the mountains than in the plains because

- (h) **Hiking gives the brain, the rest it needs because:**

(i) it is a short time activity

(ii) it is one of the healthiest sports

(iii) it makes us sleep peacefully

(iv) it is an escape from our busy schedule

Answers

- (a) (iv) the depressing daily routine is forgotten.
- (b) Two examples of minute observations one makes while on a hike are:
- a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree.
 - a snake casting its slough.
- (c) acquire a new meaning and significance to us
- (d) I. uproar and peace
II. free and busy
- (e) The beauty of nature gives us immense pleasure and we feel connected with the nature.
- (f) Hiking gives us a feeling of unlimited joy as one gets exposure to fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds, etc., making one's mind and soul at peace with nature.
- (g) of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.
- (h) (iv) it is an escape from our busy schedule

Q 7. Read the following passage:

- Floods are not new to India and this subcontinent, but in recent years the problem of flooding has received much greater attention, perhaps largely because it has led to greater damage now than it did in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimised. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessive heavy rain.
- In the case of India, flooding is very much related to the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds an outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. Flooding due to heavy rain is confined not

only to the main rivers of the country, but also affects smaller tributaries and streams. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams, particularly in mountain areas, do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.

3. One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts, resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level, is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration but far more intensive; in other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.
4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of floods through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. These lead to the deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spillover of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the riverbeds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures. An example is the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, who become victims of flooding. What is a mere trickle most of the year, bursts its banks during the monsoons, as has been the case in recent years.
5. Flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood-prone interstate rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilise various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures, whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

(CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) The problem of floods has been considered more important recently because:
 - (i) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past
 - (ii) floods are resulting in increased relocation
 - (iii) floods occur only during the monsoon season
 - (iv) of problems of frequent tornadoes and cyclones in the subcontinent.
- (b) The writer claims that flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. State one reason for the claim.
- (c) Supply one point to justify the following:
The worst hit people are slum dwellers.
- (d) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of antonyms:
 - I. largely and substantially
 - II. generally and particularly
 - III. relief and safe
 - IV. impact and effect
 - V. smaller and greater
- (e) Complete the sentence appropriately.
According to the writer, heavy rain causes floods not only in the main rivers
- (f) Based on your reading of the text, infer why the writer says that in spite of timely forecasting people have suffered.
- (g) The writer says that forecasts are difficult to make and time available is very short. Select the reason for it.
 - (i) Flash floods
 - (ii) Cyclonic rain
 - (iii) Tornadoes
 - (iv) Landslides
- (h) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Because of population pressures,

Answers

- (a) (i) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past
- (b) The writer claims that flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. One reason for this is that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood-prone interstate rivers in the country.
- (c) The worst hit victims of flooding are slum dwellers. An example is their settling on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi and becoming victims of flooding.
- (d) II. generally and particularly
V. smaller and greater
- (e) but also in the smaller tributaries and streams.
- (f) In spite of timely forecasting, people have suffered from floods. It is because in most cases, they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe.

- (g) (i) Flash floods
 (h) the vulnerability of the population has increased substantially.

Q 8. Read the following passage:

- Organic food is very popular these days. It can also be very expensive. Some organic food costs twice as much as non-organic food. Parents of young children and even some pet owners, will pay high prices for organic food if they think it is healthier. But many others think organic food is just a waste of money.
- There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food. Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides that stop insects from damaging crops. In many countries, foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that guarantee they're grown organically.
- Some people think organic also means 'locally grown' and originally it was indeed true. But over a period of time organic farming has become a big business, with many organic foods now being grown by large agricultural companies that sell their products far from where they're grown. Processed food made with organic ingredients has also become more popular. At first, only small companies produced these products. But as demand overtook supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products.
- Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate. Many farmers and consumers believe it is safer and more nutritious. They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses such as cancer, but there isn't much evidence proving this is true. However, recent studies have shown that eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases. Many doctors think it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods. These bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruits and vegetables, and doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Meat, fish and chicken can also become contaminated so washing your hands before handling these foods is also very important. (CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) **People are willing to pay high prices for organic food because:**
 (i) it is not easily available
 (ii) it helps in weight loss
 (iii) it is produced by small companies
 (iv) it does not contain agricultural chemicals.
- (b) **What connect does the writer draw between contamination of food and washing hands?**
- (c) **The writer contrasts organic food to non-organic food.**
State one point of comparison between the two.

- (d) **The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I–V below, identify two sets of antonyms:**

- I. expensive and healthier
 II. organic and non-organic
 III. important and popular
 IV. safer and serious
 V. small and big

- (e) **Complete the sentence appropriately.**
Special labels that guarantee that the products are grown organically must be put to
- (f) **According to the doctors, what is more important?**
- (g) **The writer says that people believe that it is safer and more nutritious to eat organic food. Select the reason for his sceptical view.**
 (i) The price decides the popularity.
 (ii) There is no confirmed evidence.
 (iii) It is tastier.
 (iv) It is marketed by big food companies.
- (h) **Complete the sentence appropriately.**
Big food companies also began selling organic products

Answers

- (a) (iv) it does not contain agricultural chemicals
 (b) According to the writer, washing hands can prevent contamination of food because germs get transferred from hands to the food. Thus, it becomes very important to wash hands before handling any food so that we can stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating the food.
 (c) Organic food doesn't use agricultural chemicals for the growth while non-organic food uses agricultural chemicals for the growth.
 (d) II. organic and non-organic
 V. small and big
 (e) the foods that claim to be organic.
 (f) According to the doctors, it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods. Whether the food is organic or non-organic, these bacteria can contaminate it. So, doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it.
 (g) (ii) There is no confirmed evidence.
 (h) as demand overtook supply.

Q 9. Read the following passage:

- Mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilisation itself. The ancient Egyptians held gold in high esteem. Gold had religious significance for them, and King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that whatever he touched be turned into gold.
- Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 square

feet in size, and becomes so thin that light can pass through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver, and it is particularly important in modern electronic industry.

3. People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of people in their ruthless search for gold. Even today, the economy of South Africa's gold mines depend largely on the employment of black labourers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus boarding and lodging. They work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners die in South Africa each year.
4. Much of the gold's value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it can be stored in a vault 60 feet square, or a super tanker. Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Issac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. The discovery of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century in California 1848 and later in Australia and South Africa changed everything. Before the discovery there simply wasn't enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal.
5. An out-of-work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa into the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal on a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given 12 pounds as a reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and was eaten by a lion.
6. One of the biggest gold mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex-prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex-guards.
7. Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 per cent of the metal goes into making jewellery. Italy is the biggest consumer of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewellers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold. Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have had no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently, "You have to choose between trusting the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government", he said "and with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise to vote for gold."

(CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) When was King Tutankhamen buried?
 - (i) 1717 (ii) 1886
 - (iii) 3300 years ago (iv) 1848
- (b) Based on your reading of the text list two reasons why the writer says that
Not only is gold beautiful but it is virtually indestructible.

- (c) Complete the sentence appropriately.
 Egyptians held gold in great esteem because
- (d) The passage includes some words that are similar in meaning to each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of synonyms:
 - I. ruthless and cruel
 - II. modern and old
 - III. esteem and scarcity
 - IV. store and hoard
 - V. undamaged and disappeared
- (e) How were the black labourers exploited?
- (f) Supply one point to justify the following:
 The desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes.
- (g) Complete the sentence appropriately.
 The largest part of the metal (gold) is used in
- (h) According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - (i) Gold is the best conductor of electricity.
 - (ii) Apart from gold, copper and silver are good conductors of electricity.
 - (iii) Gold can be easily beaten, hence it is easy to work with.
 - (iv) Gold plays an important role in the modern electronics industry.

Answers

- (a) (iii) 3300 years ago
- (b) The writer says, "Not only is gold beautiful but it is virtually indestructible." The writer gives two reasons for this. One reason is that gold will not rust or corrode. Another reason is that gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries.
- (c) of its religious significance.
- (d) I. ruthless and cruel
 IV. store and hoard
- (e) The black labourers were paid about 40 pounds a month, plus boarding and lodging. They worked in conditions that can only be described as cruel.
- (f) Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who had no faith in paper money. Many Italian jewellers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold.
- (g) making jewellery.
- (h) (i) Gold is the best conductor of electricity.

Q 10. Read the following passage:

1. As a high school student, studying poetry can be a rollercoaster ride. This journey is punctuated by moments of profound appreciation for simpler pieces and intermittent frustration with more complex works.

Let's be real here—some poems are just plain confusing and no amount of re-reading seems to help decipher the intended meaning. The puzzlement that results from such instances can be both vexing and demotivating. If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.

2. Conversely, some pieces resonate with the reader's soul. Stirring feelings of warmth, happiness, and connection to the world. Often, these compositions centre on themes that are universally understood, such as love, nature or faith. Being able to actually understand what the poet is trying to say can feel like a little victory and is a welcome relief after grappling with more perplexing poetry.
3. Then there are poems that are emotionally charged; the ones that make the reader curl up in a ball and cry or jump up and down with joy. One is left in awe of the poet's ability to convey emotion through words. Let's not forget the downright weird poems. These are the ones that defy categorisation and leave the reader to their own devices in attempting to interpret meaning. The author's use of figurative language and unconventional imagery can create a sense of bewilderment that is either intriguing or off-putting. Regardless, the reader can appreciate the uniqueness of the work.
4. Despite the wide range of emotions and reactions that come with studying poetry, it can be a rewarding pursuit. Not only does reading poetry allow one to appreciate the artistic beauty of the written word but also enables one to develop crucial critical thinking and analytical skills. The process of unlocking a poem's meaning can feel like cracking a code or solving a puzzle but the sense of accomplishment derived from mastering a challenging piece can be deeply gratifying. Finally, impressing an English teacher with a well-analysed poem can be a source of pride and validation.
5. Overall, studying poetry is like a box of mixed chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. But whether it's complex, emotional, simple, or just downright weird, there's always something to be gained from the experience. So, let's applaud all the poets out there, for making us laugh, cry, scratch our heads, and occasionally feel like a genius. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards studying poetry?
- (i) Finds poetry to be a frustrating and meaningless endeavour.
 - (ii) Believes that the emotional rollercoaster of studying poetry is not worth the effort.
 - (iii) Recognises the challenges of studying poetry but also acknowledges the rewards it offers.
 - (iv) Feels that poetry is too obscure and abstract for the average person to appreciate.

- (b) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (1)? Rationalise your response. If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.

- (c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author's use of vivid imagery in the paragraph (3), such as "curl up in a ball and cry" and "jump up and down with joy", greatly affects the reader because

- (d) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of antonyms:

- I. intriguing and off-putting
- II. deciphering and interpreting
- III. appreciate and applaud
- IV. simple and challenging
- V. emotions and feelings

- (e) Complete the sentence appropriately.

We can say that the author's tone becomes more neutral and objective when discussing weird poems, compared to other types of poetry because

- (f) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, how studying poetry can be like exploring a new city.

- (g) What is the message conveyed by Hina's experience, in the following case?

Hina spends hours trying to analyse a poem for her assignment and finally feels a sense of accomplishment and pride, once she understands.

- (i) Only those with natural talent for poetry should engage with it.
- (ii) Persistence makes studying poetry a rewarding pursuit.
- (iii) Study of poetry is guaranteed to impress others.
- (iv) The efforts of studying poetry is inversely proportional to the rewards gained.

- (h) State whether the following lines display an example of a simple/complex/emotionally charged/downright weird, poem.

The sun rises in the east,
A new day begins, a fresh start.
Birds chirp, nature wakes up,
A peaceful feeling in my heart.

Answers

- (a) (iii) Recognises the challenges of studying poetry but also acknowledges the rewards it offers.
- (b) The tone of the writer is critical. The writer seems to be expressing his scepticism and dissatisfaction with poems that are overly obscure and difficult to understand. The writer suggests that such poems may not be worth the effort and compares them unfavourably to solving a riddle. The tone also seems to be sarcastic. The writer believes that some

poets may intentionally make their work difficult to understand, which can be frustrating for readers. The sarcastic tone of the writer is likely a reflection of the writer's opinion that poetry should not be needlessly complex and should strive to connect with readers.

- (c) it creates a powerful emotional impact and enhances the reader's understanding of the intensity of emotion that can be conveyed through poetry.
- (d) I. intriguing and off-putting
IV. simple and challenging

- (e) the author acknowledges that weird poems can be off-putting, but also appreciates their uniqueness and the challenge they present to readers.
- (f) Just as exploring a new city requires an open mind and a willingness to embrace the unexpected, studying poetry requires an openness to different styles and approaches, and a willingness to be challenged and surprised by what you find.
- (g) (ii) Persistence makes studying poetry a rewarding pursuit.
- (h) simple

Case-based FACTUAL PASSAGES

Q 1. Read the following passage:

1. Around 194 millions birds and 29 million mammals are thought to be killed each year on European roads, according to a new study that has ranked the most vulnerable species. The research has found that the species killed most often were not necessarily the endangered species. This means action to preserve wildlife when new roads are built risks being targeted at the wrong species based on current methods. Road densities in Europe are among the world's highest, with 50% of the continent within 1.5 km of a paved road or railway. Roads are therefore a significant threat to wildlife, and evidence shows deaths on them could even cause some species to disappear completely.
 2. Despite this, the long-term protection of species is not currently considered when assessing the impact of new roads on wildlife, meaning we risk giving support to only the endangered species, doing nothing to help those most at risk. A better understanding of which species are most vulnerable to roads is therefore important if we are to take a more effective action of protection.
 3. A research team based in Lisbon calculated road-kill rates for 423 bird species and 212 mammal species. They found that small animals with high population densities and which mature at an early age were most likely to be killed on roads. Nocturnal mammals and birds with a diet of plants and seeds were also shown to have higher death rates.
 4. The study also used the road-kill surveys to rank the bird and mammal species whose long-term survival was most threatened by road-kill. The hazel grouse and ground squirrel were found to be the most at risk of local extinction. Both are common in Europe but are classified as species of Least Concern Red list of Threatened Species.
 5. The most vulnerable animals classified as threatened by IUCN were the red-knobbed coot, Balcan mole and Podolian mole. The study revealed that road-kill hotspots were not the areas with the highest population of endangered species. For example, house sparrows had a high road-kill rate (2.7 per km/year) but were ranked 420th of 423 bird species for vulnerability. Conversely, the hazel grouse had a low predicted road kill-rate (0.2 per km/yr) but was most vulnerable of all birds studied.
- (CBSE 2021 Term-1, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Road traffic causes
- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
The surveys ranked the (road-kill/species-found) rate of birds and animals. The finding puts grouse and squirrel at (great risk/low risk).
- (c) How many birds and mammals are thought to be killed each year on European roads?
- (d) Which one of the following statement is correct from the given passage?
 - (i) While planning roads we should see which species to protect.
 - (ii) We are doing a lot to protect those most at risk.
 - (iii) 50% of Europe is covered only with roads.
 - (iv) Small animals even with low population density are most at risk.
- (e) What were the most vulnerable animals classified as threatened by IUCN?
- (f) Select the option that correctly replaces the word 'vulnerable' in the passage.
 - (i) Susceptible (ii) Protected
 - (iii) Guarded (iv) Secure
- (g) What did a research team based in Lisbon calculate?
- (h) The title of the study should be:
 - (i) A Birds and Mammals Survey
 - (ii) Road-kills
 - (iii) Road Density in Europe
 - (iv) Need for Conservation

Answers

- (a) a great risk to wild life.
- (b) road-kill; great risk
- (c) Around 194 millions birds and 29 million mammals are thought to be killed each year on European roads, according to a new study that has ranked the most vulnerable species. The research has found that the species killed most often were not necessarily the endangered species.

- (d) (i) While planning roads we should see which species to protect.
- (e) The most vulnerable animals classified as threatened by IUCN were the red-knobbed coot, Balcan mole and Podolian mole.
- (f) (i) Susceptible
- (g) A research team based in Lisbon calculated road-kill rates for 423 bird species and 212 mammal species. They found that small animals with high population densities and which mature at an early age were most likely to be killed on roads.
- (h) (ii) Road-kills

Q 2. Read the following passage:

1. Research from the Publishers Association has shown that films based on books take 44% more at the box office revenue in the UK and 53% more worldwide than original screenplays. The report explores what impact a book has when adapted for film and TV.
2. The report reads: "Published material is the basis of 52% of top UK films in the last 10 years, and accounts for an even higher share of revenue from these leading performers, at 61% of UK box office gross and 65% of worldwide gross." The Hollywood adaptation of "My Cousin Rachel" was shown to have a significant impact on the sales of the Daphne Du Maurier thriller. The sales of the book in 2017 alone accounted for 23% of all sales since 1992.
3. The research suggests that adapted films tend to perform better, because films can 'leverage the popularity' of well-known books through an existing audience. Films adapted from books also tend to have a richer, more fully-developed story to draw on.
In terms of TV adaptation, it was revealed that a quarter of dramas were based on literary sources and attracted a 56% larger share of the audience than those based on original scripts.
Fourteen of the 35 high end series produced in the UK in the period between January and September 2017 were based on books, compared to seven based on true stories or historical events and five based on pre-existing films or TV stories.
4. In the case of the 2016 BBC broadcast of 'The Night Manager', research revealed that while the novel was in circulation for over 25 years, 82% of the copies it sold were in 2016 and 2017. Sales of the paperback edition remained strong in 2017 even after the series went off the air.
5. In conclusion, the report states that "there is a strong two-way relationship between publishing and the wider creative economy, wherein a successful adaptation often has spill-over effects and gives a substantial boost to the sales of the original book."

(CBSE SQP 2021 Term-1, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) What is the meaning of the following statement?
"The sales of the book in 2017 alone accounted for 23% of all sales since 1992."
- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.

According to the research, the films based on books have greater success because the films get the (advantage/disadvantage) of the (defame/fame) of the books.

- (c) What has research from the Publishers Association shown?
- (d) On what majority of the top films in the UK are based?
- (e) According to paragraph 5, 'there is a two-way relationship between books and the screen'.
Complete the sentence appropriately.
This is so because
- (f) This passage lists an example proving that TV dramas based on literary works have:
 - (i) increased the immediate sales of the book
 - (ii) decreased the immediate sales of the book
 - (iii) had no impact on the sales of the book
 - (iv) had very little impact on the sales of the book
- (g) What does the research suggest about adapted films?
- (h) The purpose of the research by Publishers Association was to study the:
 - (i) variety in films and TV shows
 - (ii) impact of films on books
 - (iii) choice of books for film-making
 - (iv) connect between books and films

Answers

- (a) A major chunk of sales took place in the year 2017.
- (b) advantage; fame
- (c) Research from the Publishers Association has shown that films based on books take 44% more at the box office revenue in the UK and 53% more worldwide than original screenplays. The report explores what impact a book has when adapted for film and TV.
- (d) Majority of the top films in the UK are based on published material.
- (e) both gain from each other's popularity
- (f) (i) increased the immediate sales of the book
- (g) The research suggests that adapted films tend to perform better, because films can 'leverage the popularity' of well-known books through an existing audience. Films adapted from books also tend to have a richer, more fully-developed story to draw on.
- (h) (iv) connect between books and films

Q 3. Read the following passage:

The UN's 2017 International Year tells that sustainable tourism is an important tool for development, most importantly in poor communities and countries. Today sustainability—environmental, social and economic—is increasingly recognised as the benchmark for all tourism business. As noted by the UN World Tourism Organisation, 57% of international tourist arrivals will be in emerging economies, by 2030. The various 'Tourism Terms' are defined as follows:

| S.No. | Category | Definition |
|-------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Ecotourism | Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, socially and economically sustains the well-being of local people, and creates knowledge and understanding through interpretation and education of all involved (including staff, travellers and community residents). |
| 2. | Ethical tourism | Tourism in a destination where ethical issues are the key driver, e.g., social injustice, human rights, animal welfare, or the environment. |
| 3. | Geotourism | Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture and well-being of its residents. |
| 4. | Pro-poor tourism | Tourism that results in increased net benefit for the poor people in a destination. |
| 5. | Responsible tourism | Tourism that maximises the benefits to local communities, minimises negative social or environmental impacts, and helps local people conserve fragile cultures and habitats or species. |
| 6. | Sustainable tourism | Tourism that leads to the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social, and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems. |

Based on data collected by a survey by Travel Bureau, the following market profile of an ecotourist was constructed:

Age: 35-54 years old, although age varied with activity and other factors such as cost.

Gender: 50% female and 50% male, although clear differences based on activity were found.

Education: 82% were college graduates, a shift in interest in ecotourism from those who have high levels of education to those with less education was also found, indicating an expansion into mainstream markets.

Household Composition: No major differences were found between general tourists and experienced ecotourists. (Experienced ecotourists = tourists that had been on at least one 'ecotourism' oriented trip.)

Party Composition: A majority (60%) of experienced ecotourism respondents stated they prefer to travel as a couple, with only 15% stating they preferred to travel with their families, and 13% preferring to travel alone.

Trip Duration: The largest group of experienced ecotourists— (50%) preferred trips lasting 8-14 days.

Expenditure: Experienced ecotourists were willing to spend more than general tourists, the largest group (26%).

Important Elements of Trip: Experienced ecotourists top three responses were: (a) wilderness setting, (b) wildlife viewing, (c) hiking/trekking.

Motivations for Taking Next Trip: Experienced ecotourists top two responses were: (a) enjoy scenery/nature, (b) new experiences/places.

(CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- Complete the sentence appropriately.
The education aspect in the market profile of the ecotourist revealed that
- Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
One of the elements that is important to ecotourists on trip is (domestic/wild) and (touched/untouched) surroundings.
- What is ecotourism?
- In the line "..... recognised as the benchmark", the word 'benchmark' does not refer to:
 - a basis for something
 - the criterion required
 - the ability to launch something new
 - a standard point of reference
- What did the survey show about the age range of ecotourists?
- In the market profile of an ecotourist, what does the information on gender indicate?
- What is sustainable tourism?
- Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of geotourism.
 - Showcases adventure sports
 - Promotes landscape appreciations
 - Promises luxurious travel
 - Includes being environmentally responsible
 - Believes in commercialising forests
 - Initiates donations for the underprivileged
 - I and II
 - V and VI
 - II and IV
 - III and V

Answers

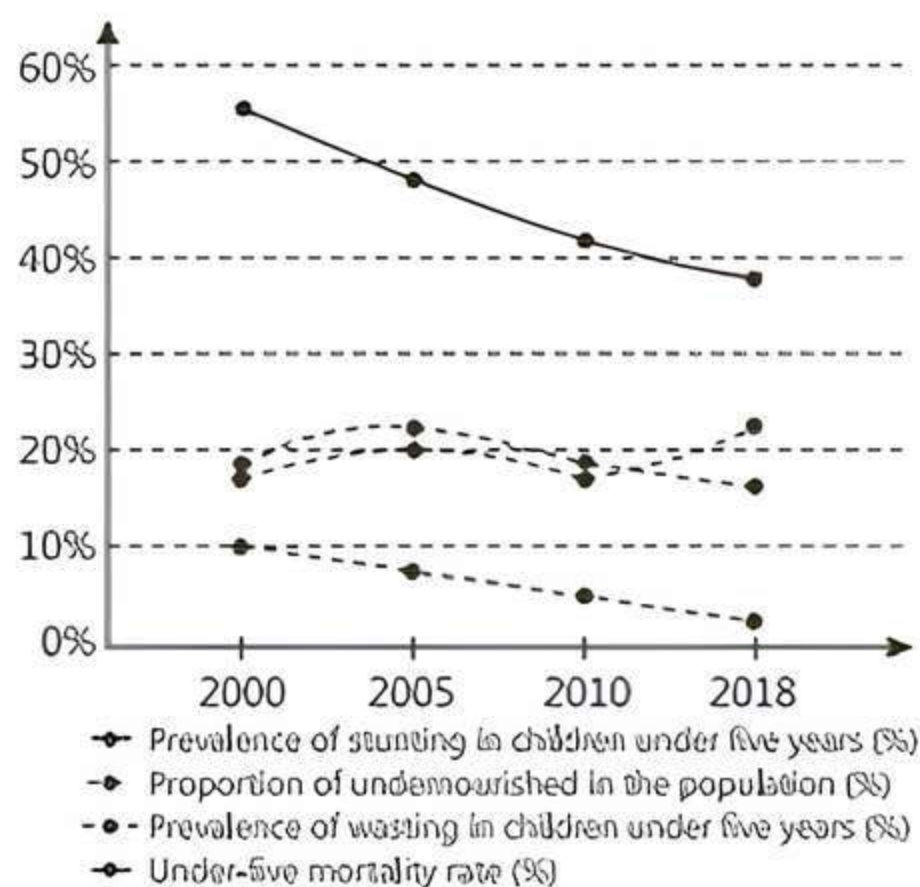
- ecotourism was no more limited to the small group of highly educated travellers
- wild; untouched
- Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, socially and economically sustains the well-being of local people and creates knowledge and understanding through interpretation and education of all involved (including staff travellers and community residents). is called ecotourism.
- (iii) the ability to launch something new
- The survey showed that the age range of ecotourists changed with the monetary requirements for the trip.
- In the market profile of an ecotourist, the information on gender indicates that the activity preferences were varied in females and males.
- Sustainable tourism is one that leads to the management of all resources in such a way that

economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems.

(h) (iii) II and IV

Q 4. Read the following passage:

1. Children in India live in diverse circumstances and have equally diverse needs and rights. Along with their need to be educated, healthy, and skilful, they need, and have rights to adequate nutrition, to live in a safe and supportive environment, have opportunities to reach their optimal potential and generally lead healthy, joyful, and fulfilling lives so that they can become productive and well-adjusted citizens of tomorrow.
2. Children in our country face many challenges. Many of them are first generation learners and face a myriad of problems throughout their schooling. Due to the socio-economic and cultural determinants, they may be vulnerable in many ways. Peer pressure and lack of positive role models may prompt them to make unsafe and unhealthy choices. Anxiety and depression amongst the students, to the point of turning them suicidal, have been a cause for concern in the recent past.
3. Girls are more vulnerable and face discrimination at many levels from being unwelcome since birth to being pulled out of school for a variety of reasons. Dropping out of school, low motivation for academics, and general disinterest in sports and physical activities are some of the problems that need to be addressed.
4. Child malnutrition is rampant in most parts of the country. This has an adverse bearing on their cognitive capacities, learning performance and physical capacity. India is one among the many countries where child malnutrition is severe. Malnutrition is a major underlying cause of child mortality in India. Trends in various nutritional indicator values and U5 mortality rate from 2000 to 2018 are shown in the figure below:



5. Our children have the right to have a good quality education, skill-building facilities, a safe and supportive environment, positive role models, empowerment, and friendly health services and counselling. Well-informed and skilled children are likely to make better decisions concerning their careers and relationships, habits, physical and mental health, and also will be successful and an asset to the society.

6. They also need to understand and deal with emerging issues like newly available career choices, pollution, water and energy conservation, global warming, protection of the environment, terrorism, and disasters. Dealing with anxiety and depression, negative peer pressure, violence, and accidents are some other significant issues that impact an individual's health and also the social, economic and health indicators of the country. Gender sensitivity, prevention of female infanticide and good parenting are some important social aspects that all children need to understand. Children require guidance and assistance—both covert and overt from their parents, teachers, peers and society in general to complete the various tasks of development and deal with such issues.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) What percentage of children in 2005 didn't show stunting?
- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
The aim of good education is to make students (unaware/aware) about the (better/worse) choice for themselves and for the world.
- (c) What kinds of challenges do children face in our country?
- (d) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Well-informed children prove to be better than other children because
- (e) What was most prevalent in children under five years in the year 2000?
- (f) Select the option that correctly replaces the word 'rampant' in the passage.
(i) Restrained (ii) Limited
(iii) Controlled (iv) Prevalent
- (g) What rights do the children have?
- (h) The passage presents the observation that:
(i) children should be subjected to education only
(ii) children's problems should not be a major concern
(iii) children's growth should be the major concern for the society
(iv) children should not be given a new environment for growth

Answers

- (a) 52% children in 2005 didn't show stunting.
- (b) aware; better
- (c) Children in our country face many challenges. Many of them are first generation learners and face a myriad of problems throughout their schooling. Due to the socio-economic and cultural determinants, they may be vulnerable in many ways. Peer pressure and lack of positive role models may prompt them to make unsafe and unhealthy choices.
- (d) they make qualified choices.

- (e) Stunting was most prevalent in children under five years in the year 2000.
- (f) (iv) Prevalent
- (g) Children have the rights to have a good quality education, skill-building facilities, a safe and supportive environment, positive role models, empowerment, and friendly health services and counselling. Well-informed and skilled children are likely to make better decisions concerning their careers and also will be an asset to the society.
- (h) (iii) children's growth should be the major concern for the society

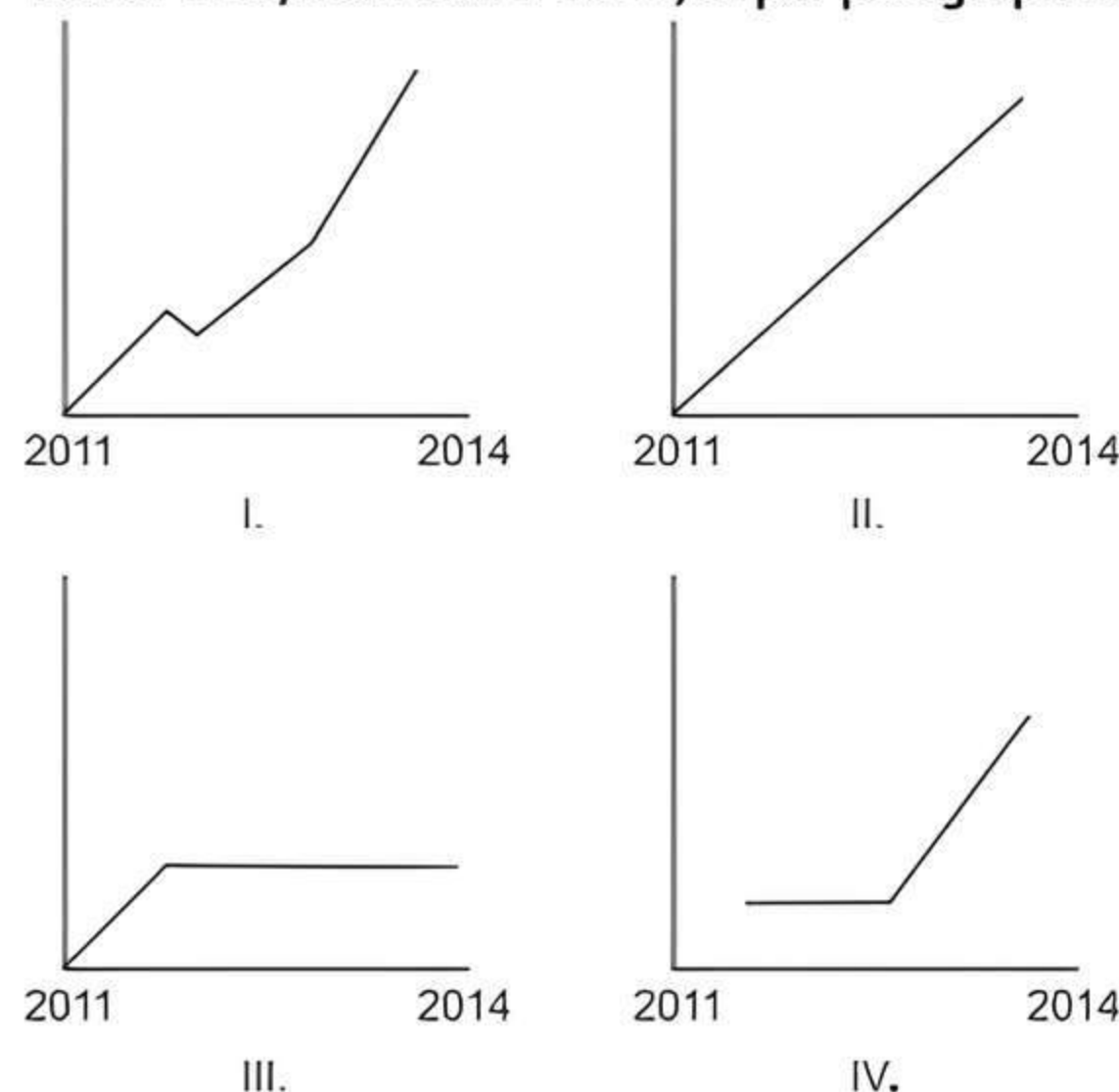
Q 5. Read the following passage:

- The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences—a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction.
- A study conducted in 2020 by Dr Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North-East increased from 37,380 persons in 2005 to 1,18,552 in 2014. The overall growth rate of tourist (both domestic and foreign) in the North-East was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to North-East States of India during 2012 from 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2013 from 2012. Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2014 from 2013, according to data provided from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India. (CBSE SQP 2022-23, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in (paragraph 1).
The rate of tourism in the North-East of India puzzles tourism officials.
- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
The study of tourist travel statistics in the (North-East/South-East), from 2005 to 2014 showed (inconsistent/encouraging) results.
- (c) What are the new generations of travellers increasingly looking for?

- (d) Select the chart that appropriately represents the trend of foreign tourist travels in the North-East, from 2011-2014, as per paragraph 2.



- (i) Option I (ii) Option II
(iii) Option III (iv) Option IV

- (e) List any two examples of 'tourist facilities' as referred to, in paragraph 3.
- (f) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 1.
aroma : cooking : : : painting
(Clue: Just like 'aroma' is integral to 'cooking', similarly is/are integral to 'painting')
- (g) What did the study recommendations for tourism planners include?
- (h) Select the option that titles paragraphs 1-3 appropriately, with reference to information in the text.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) | (ii) |
| I. Full Speed Ahead! | I. Winds of Change |
| II. Ups and Downs | II. Numbers Don't Lie |
| III. Cause for Concern | III. Time for Action |
| (iii) | (iv) |
| I. Inspecting Trends | I. Cause and Effect |
| II. Statistically Speaking | II. Dynamic Data |
| III. Let's Investigate | III. Dependable Facts |

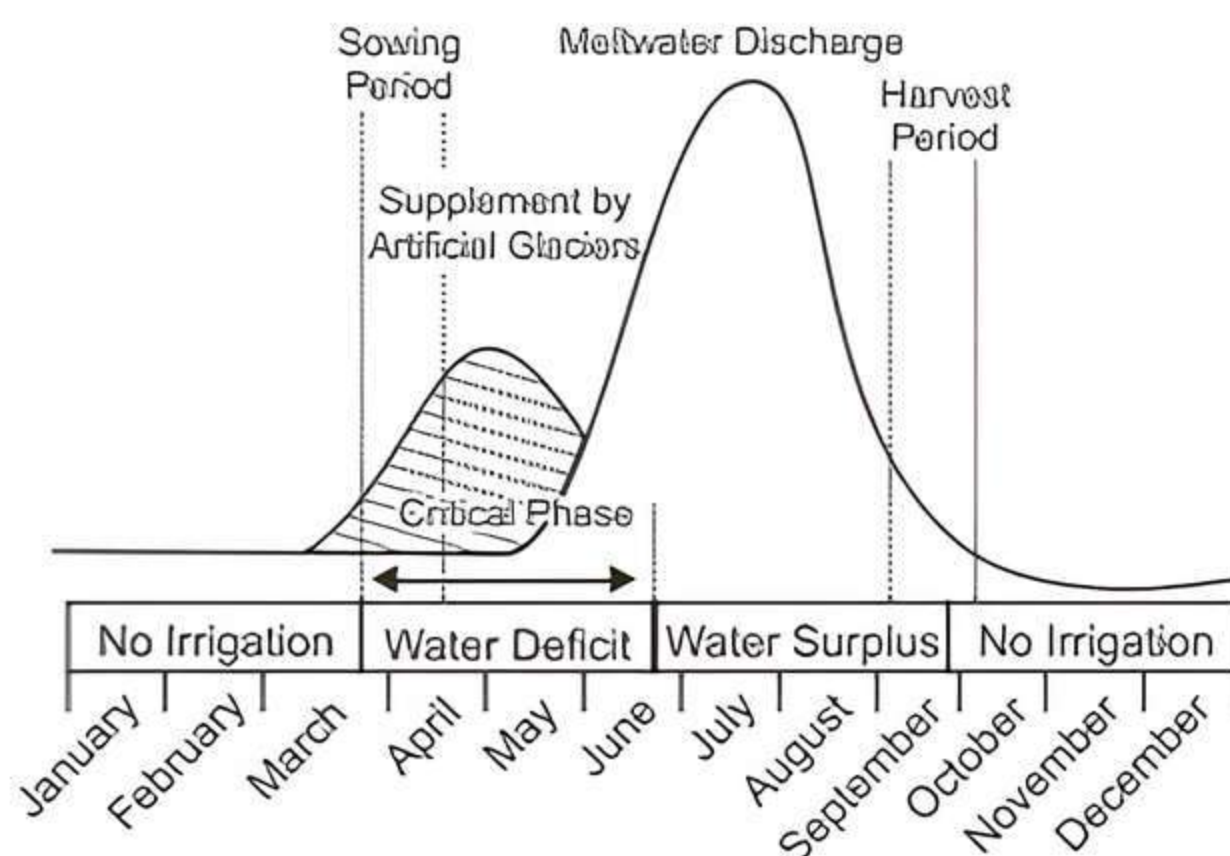
Answers

- (a) It is because these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country, in spite of having lots to offer.
- (b) North-East; encouraging
- (c) The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences—a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this, new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction.
- (d) (ii) Option II
- (e) 1. **Accommodation**—hotels, camps, etc.
2. **Recreation**—parks, gardens, malls, shopping areas, etc.

- (f) hues and shades
- (g) The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.
- (h) (ii) I. Winds of Change
II. Numbers Don't Lie
III. Time for Action

Q 6. Read the following passage:

- Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir Government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
- Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000 – 3,500 meters above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt, unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. But over the years, with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the extreme winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
- It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April-May, the crucial sowing season. Further, layers of ice above melt with the increasing temperature, thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Therefore, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about 1,50,000 and above to create a glacier.
- Fondly called the glacier man, he has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by The President of India.
- There are a few basic steps followed while creating an artificial glacier. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter, i.e., in November, the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools which freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an 'artificial glacier'.



(CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- Complete the sentence appropriately.**
At the start of winter the diverted water is made to flow
- Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.**
The (streams/glaciers) have been the only source of (water/attraction) in Leh and the areas around.
- Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.**
Areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortage but life didn't grind to a halt.
- The word 'located' in paragraph 3 means:**
(i) found (ii) locally found
(iii) situated (iv) adapted
- List one reason why artificial glaciers seem the best option.**
- Which is the crucial sowing season in Leh?**
- Write any two steps followed while creating the glaciers.**
- Select the most suitable title from the following for the passage:**
(i) Water shortage
(ii) New ways to pool water
(iii) Artificial glacier
(iv) River beds

Answers

- on sloping hills facing distribution channels
- glaciers; water
- Even if areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortage, the life didn't grind to a halt because of a retired civil engineer in Jammu and Kashmir Government who came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
- (iii) situated
- Artificial glaciers are the best option in fulfilling the shortage of water because the changing rainfall patterns have caused severe drought situations in Ladakh.

- (f) April-May is the crucial sowing season in Leh.
- (g) 1. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range.
2. At the start of the winter, i.e., November, the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels.
- (h) (iii) Artificial glacier

Q 7. Read the following passage:

- Unsafe water kills more people each year than do war and all other forms of violence combined. Meanwhile, our drinkable water sources are finite: less than 1 per cent of the Earth's freshwater is actually accessible to us. Without action, the challenges will only increase by 2050, when global demand for freshwater is expected to be one-third greater than it is now.
- Water is uniquely vulnerable to pollution. Known as a 'universal solvent', water is able to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on Earth. Water pollution is the release of substances into subsurface groundwater or into lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, and oceans to the point where the substances interfere with beneficial use of the water or with the natural functioning of ecosystems. In addition to the release of substances, such as chemicals, trash, or microorganisms, water pollution may also include the release of energy, in the form of radioactivity or heat, into bodies of water. The key causatives of water pollution in India are urbanisation, deforestation, industrial effluents and agricultural run-offs with the use of insecticides and pesticides. The other causes are social and religious offerings in water bodies and the use of detergents and fertilisers.
- Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on the ecosystem. Furthermore, toxic chemicals can travel through the food chain and get into our bodies, causing diseases and death.
- There is no single or simple answer to stop the water pollution crisis. However, there are many solutions to prevent water pollution, both in our daily lives and within industries. They are wastewater treatment, reducing plastic waste and water conservation. In addition to this, we must have water-efficient toilets, stormwater management and ozone wastewater treatment.

(CBSE 2023, Modified)



Major Causes of Water Pollution

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.
Less than 1 per cent of the Earth's freshwater is actually accessible to us.
- Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
One of the solutions of (preventing/facilitating) water pollution is (reducing farming/water conservation).
- According to the writer, how can water pollution be defined? (paragraph 2)
- Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on:
 - the ecosystem
 - weather conditions
 - unexpected rainfall
 - flash floods
- From the chart, identify two causes of water pollution in our homes.
- Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 2:
vulnerable : resilient : : artificial :
(Clue: Just as 'resilient' is the opposite of 'vulnerable', similarly the opposite of 'artificial' is)
- What are the key causatives of water pollution in India?
- Select the most suitable title for the passage from the following:
 - Water Pollution – A Mild Concern
 - Unsafe Water – A Menace
 - Universal Solvent – Water
 - Global Concern – An Urgent Need

Answers

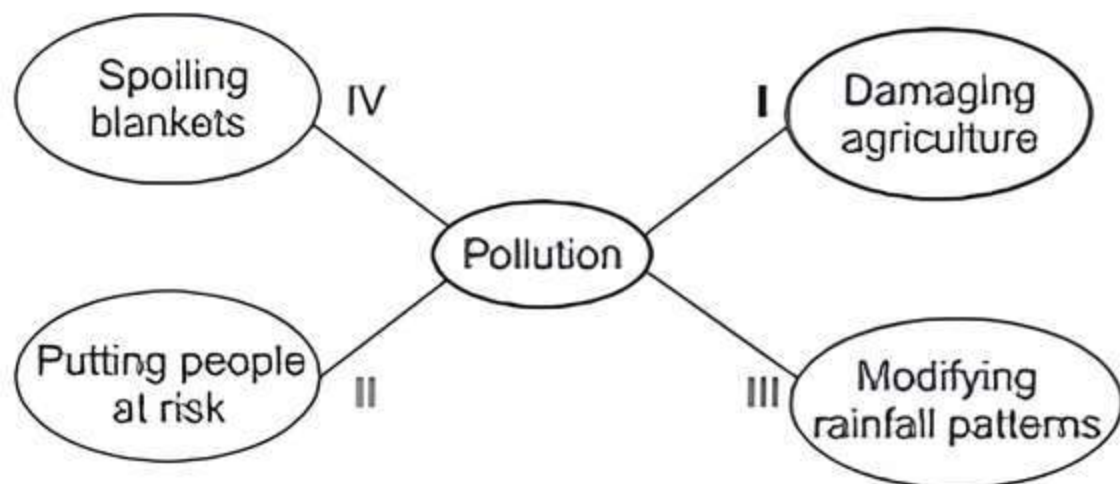
- Less than 1 per cent of the Earth's freshwater is actually accessible to us because our drinkable water sources are finite.
- preventing; water conservation
- According to the writer, water pollution can be defined as the release of substances, energy in the form of radioactivity or heat, etc., into bodies of water to the point where they interfere with the beneficial use of water or with the natural functioning of ecosystems.
- (i) the ecosystem
1. Household waste 2. Septic tank
- natural
- The key causatives of water pollution in India are urbanisation, deforestation, industrial effluents and agricultural run-offs with the use of insecticides and pesticides. the other causes are social and religious offerings in water bodies and the use of detergents and fertilizers.
- (ii) Unsafe Water – A Menace

Q 8. Read the following passage:

1. According to a new study, a vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India, damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall patterns and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk.
2. It is said, “Acids in the haze may, by falling as acid rain, have the potential to damage crops and trees. Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impact of reduced sunlight on the Earth’s surface. The pollution that is forming the haze could be leading to several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases.”
3. “The haze has cut down sunlight over India by 10 per cent (so far)— a huge amount! As a repercussion, the North-West of India is drying up,” Prof. V. Ramanathan said when asked specifically about the impact of the haze over India. He said, “We are still in an early stage of understanding of the impact of the haze.”
4. Prof. V. Ramanathan was asked whether the current droughts in most parts of India after over a decade of good monsoons was owing to the haze. He said, “It was too early to reach a conclusion. If the droughts persist for about four to five years, then we would start suspecting that it may be because of the haze.” India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover. (CBSE 2023, Modified)

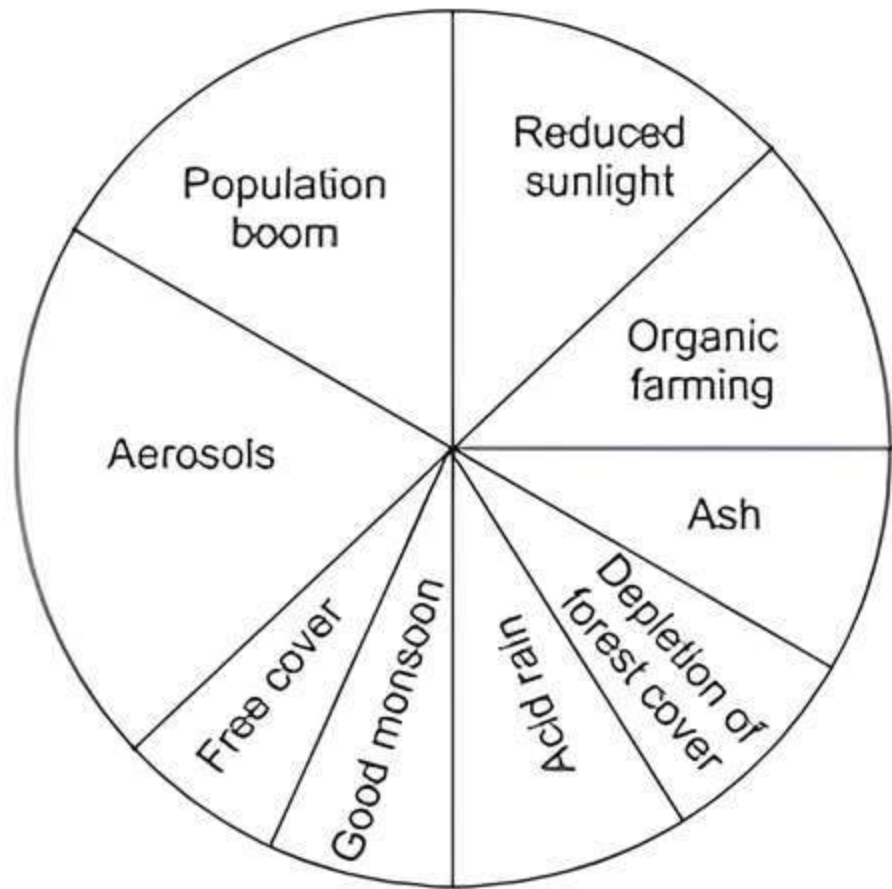
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Complete the sentence appropriately.
There has not been enough time to determine that droughts were caused
- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.
Ash falling on leaves can (lessen/ worsen) the impact of reduced (sunlight/haze) on the Earth’s surface.
- (c) Infer one reason for the following based on the information in paragraph 1:
In India rainfall patterns are changing.
- (d) The pollution spreading across South Asia is affecting India by
Choose the correct option from the ones given below:



- (i) I, II and III (ii) I, III and IV
(iii) II, III and IV (iv) I, II and IV
- (e) List any two countries which are affected due to depleting forest cover.

- (f) Which of the following means the same as ‘persist’ in ‘droughts persist’ as used in paragraph 4?
- (i) Destroying
(ii) Halting
(iii) Continue
(iv) Blocking
- (g) From the following pie chart, identify one reason each which does and does not contribute to weather disruption:



- (h) Give a suitable heading for each of the four paragraphs.

Answers

- (a) by the haze
(b) worsen; sunlight
(c) According to a new study, a vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India. It is resulting into damaging agriculture and modifying rainfall patterns.
(d) (i) I, II and III
(e) India, China
(f) (iii) Continue
(g) 1. Aerosols contribute to weather disruption.
2. Population boom contributes to weather disruption.
3. Reduced sunlight contributes to weather disruption.
4. Organic farming does not contribute to weather disruption.
5. Ash contributes to weather disruption.
6. Depletion of forest cover contributes to weather disruption.
7. Acid rain contributes to weather disruption.
8. Good monsoon does not contribute to weather disruption.
9. Free cover does not contribute to weather disruption.
(h) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia
2. Effects of Acid Rain
3. Understanding Consequences of Haze
4. Debate over Droughts

Q 9. Read the following passage:

1. Starting Monday, the country's low-cost Mars mission with the red planet for an extended period will enter the 'blackout' phase snapping communication with the satellite. From June 8 to 22, the Sun will block Mars from the Earth snapping communication with the satellite.
2. A senior Indian Space Research Organisation official said. "This will be for the first time that there will be a communication break for such a long period of about 15 days. During this period, there will be no communication with the satellite," he added.
3. Expressing confidence about regaining control over the satellite once the blackout phase is over, he said, "the scenario has been tested and the line of communication will be established." The spacecraft's life has been extended for another six months in March due to surplus fuel.
4. Stating that the spacecraft has been 'configured' for the blackout, the ISRO official said, "we are not sending any commands to the spacecraft now, till 8th June few hours of signals will be sent by the spacecraft that will be for about two to three hours per day". In May next year, the mission will have to go through a similar phase once again, if there is another extension of mission life when the Earth will come between the Sun and Mars.
5. Scripting space history, India on September 24 last successfully placed its low-cost Mars spacecraft in orbit around the red planet in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club of three countries.

(CBSE 2023, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(a) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The spacecraft's life was extended by six months because of

(b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.

The ISRO officials are (confident/doubtful) about their control over the spacecraft (after/during) the blackout phase.

(c) What will begin happening on Monday?

(d) What can be inferred from the paragraph 2?

(e) When will the mission have to go through a similar phase?

(f) The word 'instinct' in the passage means the same as:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (i) lack | (ii) impulse |
| (iii) inability | (iv) incapacity |

(g) What did the ISRO official said about regaining control over the satellite?

(h) Read the following sentences:

I. The blackout was for a short period.

II. Because of this, the officials are very nervous about the success of the spacecraft.

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| (i) Both I and II are true. |
| (ii) Both I and II are false. |
| (iii) I is true and II is false. |
| (iv) I is false and II is true. |

Answers

(a) extra fuel

(b) confident; after

(c) On starting Monday, the country's low-cost Mars mission with the red planet for an extended period will enter the 'blackout' phase snapping communication with the satellite. From June 8 to 22, the Sun will block Mars from the Earth snapping communication with the satellite.

(d) From the paragraph 2, it can be inferred that there will be a communication break for about 15 days and during this period there will be no communication with the satellite. This will be for the first time that the break will be so long.

(e) The mission will have to go through a similar phase in May next year, if there is another extension of mission life when the Earth will come between the Sun and Mars.

(f) (ii) impulse

(g) Expressing confidence about regaining control over the satellite once the blackout phase is over, he said, "the scenario has been tested and the line of communication will be established." The spacecraft's life has been extended for another six months in March due to surplus fuel.

(h) (ii) Both I and II are false.

Q 10. Read the following passage:

1. Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so, is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening where plants are grown in a vertical position or upward, rather than in the traditional method of planting them on the ground.
2. The purpose of vertical gardens and green walls, which arises from the studies of different disciplines (landscape architects, architects, engineers, etc.), is to close the cold image of concrete and increase the visual value. In these system, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.
3. Vertical garden case studies often show that, though functionality should be in the foreground, when vertical gardens are planned, they are generally made as aesthetic elements in the city's underpasses and city squares, and decorative elements in residences, without seeking functionality.
4. Expert support that the visual quality and evaluation of landscape architecture is determined based on the satisfaction of the users. Hence, a survey questionnaire was prepared for residents of varied age groups from of a metropolitan city. The given **Table 1**, displays these responses:

Table 1- Total number of participants : 400

| S.No. | Survey statements | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|-------------------|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Vertical gardens— | | | | | | |
| 1 | improve quality of life of people in urban areas | 191 | 138 | 43 | 9 | 19 |
| 2 | reduce noise pollution | 128 | 164 | 77 | 25 | 6 |
| 3 | increase air quality—indoors and outdoors | 172 | 147 | 51 | 28 | 2 |
| 4 | reduce energy and water consumption | 58 | 47 | 125 | 68 | 2 |
| 5 | positively impact global warming | 114 | 144 | 106 | 30 | 6 |
| 6 | have a relaxing and calming effect | 161 | 177 | 44 | 7 | 11 |
| 7 | cost too much | 86 | 107 | 152 | 42 | 13 |
| 8 | make plants look beautiful | 195 | 139 | 44 | 6 | 16 |
| 9 | add naturalness to the environs | 135 | 173 | 55 | 25 | 12 |
| 10 | are among the determining factor to visiting a place | 59 | 133 | 141 | 54 | 13 |
| 11 | are inconvenient indoors | 9 | 84 | 123 | 126 | 48 |
| 12 | can be applied in every place | 71 | 132 | 97 | 77 | 23 |
| 13 | have a functional feature | 81 | 207 | 100 | 10 | 2 |
| 14 | distract drivers | 34 | 101 | 106 | 131 | 28 |
| 15 | funds are best used for social issues | 57 | 72 | 100 | 130 | 41 |

5. The study acknowledged that vertical gardening has the potential to transform urban spaces into green, sustainable areas, and further research should explore the impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being. (CBSE SQP 2023-24, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2.

We can say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with a fish living in a fishbowl, and the need for vertical gardens to the need for decorations in the fishbowl because

- (b) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.

The statement that, urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of nature and structures in vertical gardens and green walls, is a/an (fact/opinion) because it is a (subjective judgement/objective detail).

- (c) Justify the following.

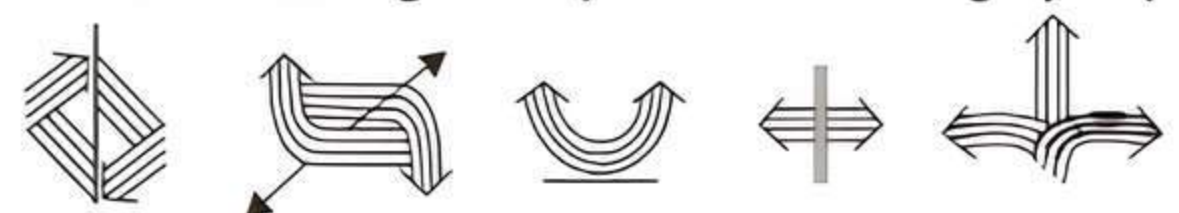
While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks.

- (d) Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens, address?

- (e) In Table 1, the statement 3, “Vertical gardens increase air quality—indoors and outdoors,”

received the most neutral responses from participants, with 51 respondents indicating a neutral stance. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

- (f) Select the option that correctly displays what 'intertwined' signifies. (Reference—Paragraph 2)



- I. II. III. IV. V.
(i) I, IV and V (ii) Only II
(iii) Only III (iv) II and V

- (g) Infer one benefit and one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions, such as community gardens or parks.

- (h) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?

- (i) Vertical gardening has minimal impact on the environment or human well-being.
(ii) Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.
(iii) The impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being has already been thoroughly explored.
(iv) The study needs to include experts from horticultural firms to offer any recommendations for further research.

Answers

- (a) just as a fish needs decorations such as plants or rocks, to simulate a natural environment and improve its quality of life, people living in urban areas need green spaces such as vertical gardens to improve their physical and mental well-being.
(b) opinion; subjective judgement

- (c) True, because the majority of participants strongly agreed that vertical gardens can improve the quality of life, increase air quality, and have a relaxing and calming effect. However, the survey does not provide information on the long-term effectiveness of vertical gardens or their potential impact on other aspects of urban life, such as traffic or community engagement.
- (d) A city government looking to install vertical gardens should consider addressing these concerns:
1. Cost of installation and maintenance (should be reasonable.)
 2. Areas of installation should be where driver distraction is less of an issue.
- (e) It is possible that participants did not have a strong opinion or preference regarding the effect of vertical gardens on air quality, which resulted in a neutral response.

- (f) (ii) Only II
- (g) **Advantage:** They can be installed in small spaces, making them ideal for urban areas with limited space.

Or

They offer aesthetic and design benefits, as they can be customised to fit specific architectural styles or preferences.

Disadvantage: May not provide as much space for outdoor recreation as community gardens or parks do.

Or

On the other hand, the cost of installation and maintenance may be higher than for other types of green spaces.

- (h) (ii) Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.



Practice Exercise

Discursive Passages

Q 1. Read the following passage:

1. Technology is making advancements at a rapid rate but at the cost of a valued tradition—the crafts industry. The traditional crafts industry is losing a lot of its trained and skilled craftsmen. With that, the art of embellishing brass and copper utensils with fine engravings is also disappearing. The government has identified around 35 crafts as languishing craft.
2. The speciality of handcrafted items is its design, an association with long traditions belonging to a specific region. The word ‘handcrafted’ does not imply the involvement of dexterous human fingers or an agile mind with a moving spirit anymore. Lessening drudgery, increasing production and promoting efficiency have taken precedence. The labour-saving devices are taking the place of handcrafted tools and this has jeopardised the skills of these artisans.
3. Mechanisation has made its way into everything—cutting, polishing, edging, designing, etc. Ideally, the use of machinery should be negligible and the handicrafts should be made purely by hand with a distinguishable artistic appeal. However, with the exception of small-scale industries, the export units are mostly operated by machines. The heavily computerised designs contribute to a faster production at lower costs.
4. Although mechanisation of crafts poses a challenge to safeguarding traditional crafts, the artisans are lured with incentives in order to impart handicrafts training. Some makers do see machines as a time-saving blessing since they are now able to accomplish difficult and demanding tasks with relative ease. These machines might give a better finesse to these products but they don’t stand out as handcrafted. Quantity has overtaken quality in this industry.
5. A need to highlight the importance of the handmade aspect is required by both the government and private sectors, in order to amplify awareness and also support the culture of making handicrafts. A few artisans are still trying their best to rejuvenate and revive their culture and heritage but it’s an uphill task competing

with the machine-made goods. A multitude of artisans have changed their professions and are encouraging their progeny to follow suit. There are others who have stayed their ground but are clearly inclined towards buying machines.

6. Nearly two decades ago, there were around 65 lakh artisans in the country. Three years ago, when the government started the process of granting a unique number to the artisans based on the Aadhaar card, 25 lakhs were identified. Loss of traditional crafts is clearly a worrying issue, but it stands to reason that forcing any artisan to follow old ways when concerns of livelihood overrule other considerations, is unfair.

(CBSE SQP 2022 Term-2, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) **The importance of the handmade aspect should be highlighted by:**
 - (i) the government
 - (ii) the private sectors
 - (iii) Both (i) and (ii)
 - (iv) foreigners
- (b) **Why are artisans choosing to use machines rather than handcrafted tools?**
- (c) **What is the traditional crafts industry losing?**
- (d) **The passage includes some words that are similar to each other in meaning. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of synonyms:**
 - I. rejuvenate and revive
 - II. demanding and difficult
 - III. lessening and increasing
 - IV. accomplish and challenge
 - V. Promoting and losing
- (e) **Complete the sentence appropriately.**
‘Handcrafted’ does not suggest any longer
- (f) **What is the speciality of handcrafted items?**
- (g) **The support towards the culture of making handicrafts will:**
 - (i) encourage artisans to continue their tradition
 - (ii) make artisans change their profession
 - (iii) bring loss to everyone
 - (iv) None of the above

(h) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The writer says that the artisans cannot be expected to continue their profession

Q 2. Read the following passage:

1. The Road to Success is not straight; there is a curve called failure, a loop called confusion, speed bumps called friends, caution-lights called family, and you will have flats called jobs. But, if you have a spark called determination, an engine called perseverance, insurance called faith, and a driver called God, you will make it to a place called success!
2. In spite of all our planning and preparation, unexpected challenges are certain to arise. The bumps in the road are unavoidable, but you'll never get to your destination if you aren't willing to drive over them. The difference between a disaster and triumph lies in whether or not you're prepared and willing to weather the storm. If you're ready, those bumps will become stepping-stones.
3. The key thing to realise is that working harder is the same as working smarter. How do you work smarter? You just need to have the right skills. People want improved circumstances and better life without an improved self. They want victory without paying the price or making efforts. It really cannot happen without the other. Any improvements that have not been generated by improving yourself are superficial and short-lived. If you want to have a better future, you have to change yourself. Stop worrying about the various challenges that will come your way. Just believe in yourself and use them as stepping-stones.
4. 'Success' is getting whatever you want out of life without violating the rights of others. It is not an accident. Success is the result of our attitude and our attitude is a choice. Hence, success is a matter of choice and not chance.
5. Today success represents a holistic and positive attitude to life. Attitude is everything. Success is not restricted within some kind of brick and mortar premises. It assumes the individuality of a complete act executed with perfection; material achievements do not define life. We don't remember sports stars for the products they endorse but the spirit of achievement they represent. In the abundance of positive attitude, lie the grandeur of a truly rewarding rich life.
6. Success can be measured from two standpoints—the external and the internal. Externally it is the measure of a job well done and recognition. Internally it is the feeling of achievement and wholeness derived from the completion of a task or fulfilment of desire. (CBSE 2017)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(a) 'Weather the storm' means:

- (i) a difficult situation
- (ii) to face any challenge that meets a person
- (iii) to go out on a stormy day
- (iv) an easy situation

(b) What can be done to get to your destination?

(c) Complete the sentence appropriately.

In the passage, friends have been compared to

(d) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets I-V below, identify two sets of antonyms:

I. determination and perseverance

II. abundance and triumph

III. superficial and complete

IV. external and internal

V. Unavoidable and certain

(e) Complete the sentence appropriately.

External success can be defined as

(f) How can success be measured?

(g) What is the key thing to realise?

(h) Which is the most suitable title for the passage?

(i) Unexpected Challenges

(ii) The Road to Success

(iii) Working Smarter

(iv) Stop Worrying

Case-based Factual Passages

Q 3. Read the following passage:

The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit". Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

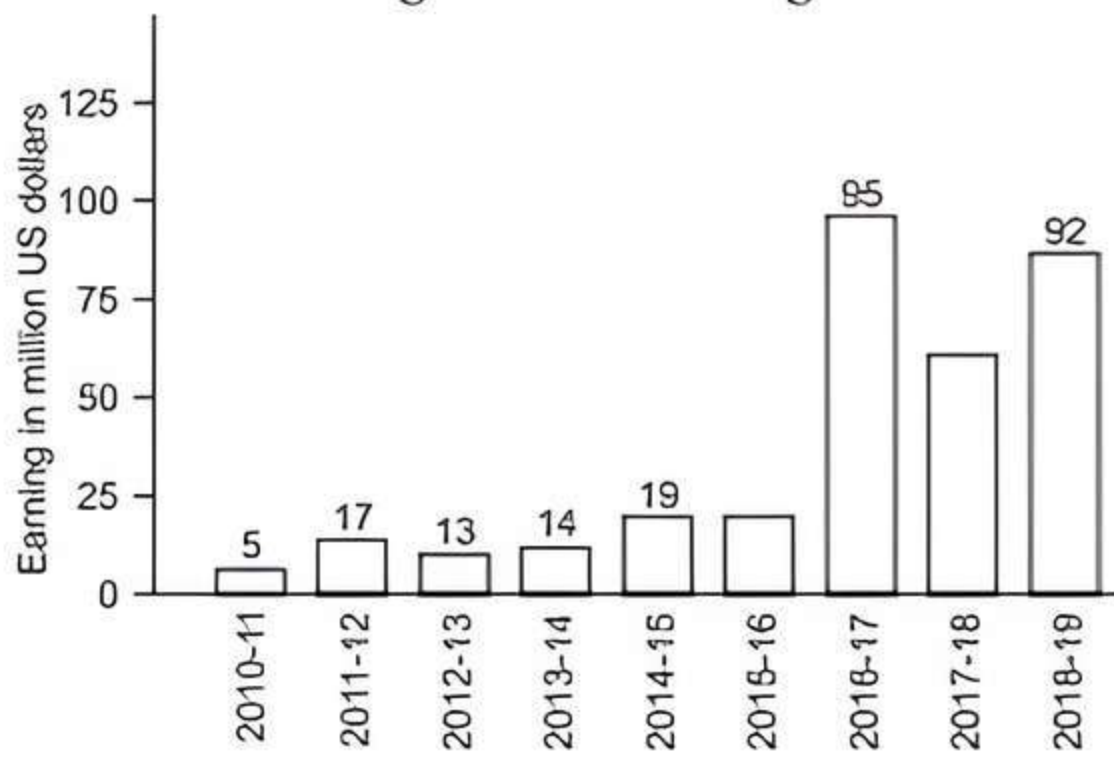
At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

In 1997, Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

(An excerpt from a case study. J.K. Rowling—A Journey)

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019



(CBSE 2022 Term-2, Modified)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.

At first Rowling was told that plot was too (simple/complex) and nobody wanted to (read/publish) Harry Potter.

- (b) Complete the sentence appropriately.
An Italian dust jacket showed Harry

- (c) How do you think that Rowling came from impoverished backgrounds?

- (d) When did Rowling receive her first royalty?

- (e) When did Rowling's highest annual earnings come?

- (f) The correct antonym of 'outraged' is:

- (i) annoyed (ii) puzzled
(iii) pleased (iv) baffled

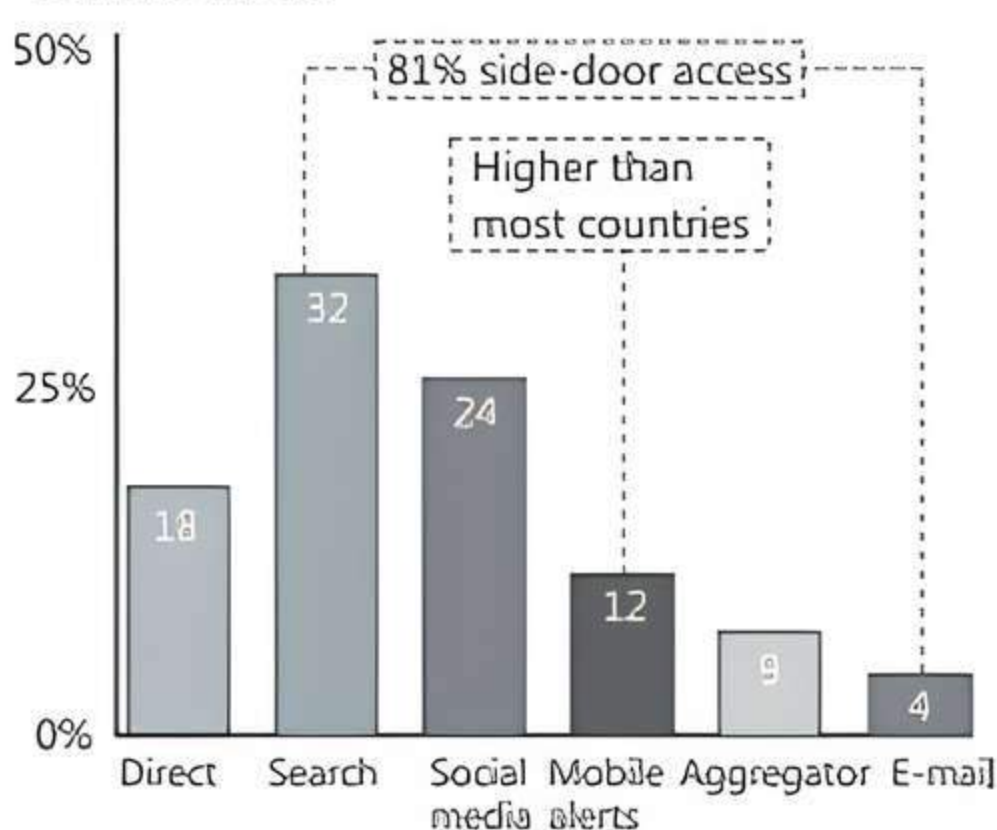
- (g) How did Rowling skyrocket to the top of the publishing world?

- (h) What were the annual earnings of Rowling in 2014-15?

- (i) 14 million (ii) 17 million
(iii) 19 million (iv) 25 million

Q 4. Read the following passage:

Proportion that say each is their main gateway to news-INDIA



- Online news and social media have outpaced print as the main source of news among those under 35 years of age, according to the Reuters India Digital News Report 2019. As many as 56% of the respondents said they prefer online news while 28% said they prefer social media. Only 16% said they prefer print.
- According to the report, which studies how digital news is being used in India, 68% of respondents identify smartphones as their main device for online news and 31% say they only use mobile devices for accessing online news. These figures are markedly higher than in

other markets, including developing ones such as Brazil and Turkey.

- Further analysing how the sample accesses news, the report says that only 18% of the respondents consider direct access their main way of getting news online. An overwhelming majority of respondents identify various forms of distributed discovery as their main way of accessing news online with 'search' at 32% and various kind of social media sources at 24%.

- Within social media, Facebook and WhatsApp are particularly widely used, with 75% of the respondents using Facebook (and 52% saying they get news there), and 82% using WhatsApp (with 52% getting news there). Other social media platform widely used for news are Instagram (26%), Twitter (18%) and Facebook Messenger (16%).

Other key findings of the report:

- Navigating news on social media: 56% of respondents say they decide on the basis of who shared the post, while for 63%, the headline is very important, and for 58%, the brand.

- WhatsApp widely used for news: 82% use the messaging application, and 52% reported getting news on WhatsApp, far higher numbers than most markets in Europe and North America, but comparable, for example, to Brazil.

Online and offline sources of news: Among the respondents over 35, online (38%) and television (34%) are about equally widely named as the main source of news, and print (27%) still more widely relied on than social media (19%).

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (a) Which source of digital news and information is most popular in India than in any other country?

- (b) Complete the sentence appropriately.
Among those under 35 years of age 16% said

- (c) How much proportion of people prefer the paperback form of news as per Reuters India Digital News Report?

- (d) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.

In the passage, India has been compared with (developing/developed) countries such as (China/Turkey).

- (e) As per the survey's graphical comparison which source of information has more market capture in India in comparison to other countries?

- (f) Select the option that correctly replaces the word 'markedly' in the passage.

- (i) Indistinctly (ii) Considerably
(iii) Insignificantly (iv) Mildly

- (g) How is digital news being used in India, according to the report?

- (h) What does the given passage highlight?

- (i) Popularity of online news over paperback newspaper
(ii) Sources of online news as means of information
(iii) Role of social media as a means of information
(iv) Both (ii) and (iii)