

**CLAT - UG SAMPLE PAPER - 05**  
**(ANALYSIS)**

**Explanation of the Passage**

The passage describes the **financial troubles faced by Japan's feudal overlords—especially the Tokugawa shoguns and samurai—in the eighteenth century**. It explains *why* they fell into economic difficulty and *how* their attempts to fix the problem ended up creating new ones.

**1. Why the samurai and overlords were under financial stress**

**A. Their expenses grew, but their income did not.**

- Samurai lived in **castle towns**, which stimulated trade and surrounded them with **luxury goods**.
- Years of peace meant most samurai had little real work; they spent time on scholarly or martial activities—and **developed expensive tastes**.
- Their **stipends** (paid in rice) did not keep up with rising costs of living.

**B. Their income didn't rise because:**

- Even though farmers produced more rice, there was a **limit** to how much overlords could tax them.
- Many tax collectors were **hereditary** officials who had become lax or corrupt, further reducing revenue.

**C. Disasters made things worse.**

- Fires and floods could destroy resources and require costly rebuilding.
- These events pushed samurai or entire domains into **debt**, often to **rice brokers**, and once in debt, they struggled to escape it.

**2. Why the shogun's government also suffered financially**

The central government (run by the Tokugawa shoguns) faced the same basic problem as individual samurai:

**They could not increase taxes on farmers or samurai.**

- Farmers were already taxed heavily.
- Taxing samurai directly would be politically dangerous.

#### **Other possible revenue sources were failing:**

- Mines: Profits were declining because gold and silver were becoming exhausted.
- Farmland: Most suitable land was already being used; more reclamation was technically impossible.
- Coinage: They tried debasing the currency (reducing its precious-metal content), but that wasn't enough.

So the government began looking elsewhere for revenue.

### **3. Why they turned to merchants**

**Merchants appeared to have most of the nation's wealth.**

Trade had grown, and many merchants had grown wealthy by serving the needs of cities and samurai.

**The shoguns began demanding “forced loans.”**

- These were not regular taxes but arbitrary, heavy exactions called **goyo kin**, imposed whenever the shogun needed money.
- They produced income quickly.

**But they had a bad side effect:**

They **drove prices up**, making life harder for people—especially samurai—whose income was fixed.

### **4. The paradox**

The shoguns wanted to solve the government's financial problems, but their chosen method (extracting money from merchants) actually **made inflation worse**, hurting the samurai and worsening the financial stress across the system.

**In summary**

- Samurai and overlords were financially strained because their **expenses increased faster than their income**.
- Revenue was limited by:

- the limits of agricultural taxation,
  - corruption or inefficiency among hereditary tax collectors,
  - declining mining income,
  - and lack of new farmland.
- The shogun turned to wealthy merchants for money through forced loans.
  - These measures **increased prices**, worsening the economic situation for those on fixed incomes.

**1. The passage is most probably an excerpt from**

- (a) An economic history of Japan.  
*Because the passage analyzes economic forces affecting government and society, not personal stories or fictional narrative.*

**2. Most analogous financial situation**

- (d) A small business has to struggle to meet operating expenses when its profits decrease.  
*Like the shogunate, the small business faces declining real income while expenses remain high.*

**3. Author's attitude toward the samurai**

- (b) Mildly sympathetic.  
*The author notes their idleness and expensive habits but explains the circumstances; no harsh judgment.*

**4. Major reason for financial problems**

- (a) Spending had outdistanced income.  
*Explicitly stated: income did not keep pace with expenses.*

**5. Why individual samurai could not easily recover from debt**

- (d) There was a limit to the amount in taxes that farmers could be made to pay.  
*Thus overlords could not significantly increase income to pay off debts.*

**6. Office of tax collector**

- (c) Remained within families.  
*"Hereditary office-holding" is given as a cause of laxity.*

**7. Best substitute for "This"**

(d) The difficulty of increasing government income by other means. The sentence discusses why other revenue sources were blocked; thus “this” refers to that difficulty, leaving commerce as the only option.

#### 8. Primary reason for turning to merchants

(b) Most of the country's wealth appeared to be in city merchants' hands. The passage states this explicitly.

#### 9. Why the shoguns' actions were regrettable

(a) Raised the cost of living by pushing up prices. Forced loans (*goyo kin*) “pushed up prices,” harming people on fixed stipends.

The passage describes a major **revival**—a comeback—in the Byzantine Empire between the **8th and 11th centuries A.D.** It explains:

1. How far the empire had fallen
2. How strongly it recovered
3. How historians usually explain such revivals
4. Why Byzantium does *not* follow the usual pattern

Let's break it down.

#### 1. Byzantium had declined severely before the revival

By the early 700s:

- The empire had lost **two-thirds of its territory**.
- Arabs and Bulgarians were attacking and sometimes threatening **Constantinople**, the capital.
- Wealth had decreased greatly.
- Art and literature had nearly disappeared.

So the empire looked close to collapse.

#### 2. But between the 8th and 11th centuries, it made a huge comeback

By the 1000s:



- The empire had regained **almost half** the territory it lost.
- Its borders were **stable and secure**.
- Its influence extended beyond its borders.
- The economy had recovered.
- The government treasury was full.
- Art, culture, and scholarship were flourishing again.

In other words, the empire became **rich, secure, and culturally vibrant once more**.

### 3. The author discusses how people usually explain such revivals

Normally, historians assume the following order:

- |    |                 |  |             |
|----|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 1. | <b>Military</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>success</b></p> <p>→ because winning battles gains territory and resources.</p>      | comes first |
| 2. | <b>Economic</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>recovery</b></p> <p>→ because the new resources produce wealth.</p>                  | follows     |
| 3. | <b>Cultural</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>flourishing</b></p> <p>→ because prosperity funds art, writing, and scholarship.</p> | comes last  |

This pattern seems logical and is seen in places like:

- **Rome under Augustus**
- **Athens in the 5th century B.C.**

So the idea is: **military** → **economic** → **cultural**.

### 4. But the author argues that Byzantium did *not* follow this pattern

Instead, the actual timeline looks like this:

#### **Cultural revival came first**

- By **788**, scholars and writers were already emerging.
- By the late 700s, a cultural revival was fully underway.

#### **Economic revival came next**

- Between **810–830**, the economy began its rise.

#### **Military revival came last**



- In the **860s**, Byzantium began reversing Arab advances.
- By **872**, the military balance had shifted in Byzantium's favor.

So Byzantium's order was:

**Cultural → Economic → Military**

This is the **reverse** of the commonly expected order.

### 5. The author even suggests culture helped drive economic and military revival

The passage ends by proposing that early **revival of learning (education, scholarship)** may have been a cause—not a result—of the later military and economic recovery.

In other words:

- **New ideas, education, and scholarship** might have strengthened the empire, helping it recover in practical ways.

### 10. Central idea of the passage

**Correct** **answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The passage argues that in Byzantium the usual sequence—military revival - economic revival - cultural revival—was **reversed**, with cultural revival coming first. Option (d) expresses this directly. Option (a) is close but less complete.

### 11. Purpose of the second paragraph

**Correct** **answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** The author says that military, economic, and cultural progress often occur together in many civilizations. This sets the stage for contrasting Byzantium later. Thus, the paragraph shows that such advances are often interconnected.

### 12. Condition of Byzantine military forces by the eleventh century

**Correct** **answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The passage states that by the 860s the Byzantines had permanently shifted the balance of power with the Abbasid Caliphate *in their favor*, and by the early eleventh century “the new frontiers were secure.” This implies a military strong enough to withstand Abbasid forces.

### 13. When the Byzantine Empire sustained significant territorial losses

**Correct** **answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** It says that “by the early eighth century, the empire had lost roughly two-thirds of the

territory it had possessed in the year 600.” This means losses occurred **after 600**, i.e., **during the seventh century**.

#### 14. Purpose of the third paragraph

**Correct answer: (b)**

**Explanation:** The author presents the *common explanation* of sequential military - economic - cultural revival **in order to later contradict it** and show that Byzantium does not fit this order.

#### 15. Crucial evidence for how the Byzantine revival began

**Correct answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** The author says the cultural revival “appears to have begun even earlier,” with notable scholars by 788. This timing is crucial because it shows culture revived **before** economic and military recovery.

#### 16. View of the “common explanation”

**Correct answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** The author says the pattern “did apply at times during the course of the recovery,” but not in general—so it explains *some* periods but not the entire Byzantine revival.

#### Explanation of the Passage

The passage describes **why neutrinos could open a new window into astronomy**, and how scientists are planning to detect them using the massive DUMAND project.

Let’s break it down.

#### 1. Why neutrinos matter for astronomy

Until now, almost everything astronomers know about the universe comes from **light** (photons):

- visible light
- radio waves
- x-rays
- gamma

rays

**But light has limits:** it can’t escape from very dense or blocked regions, like the core of a star.

**Enter neutrinos:**



- They have **no electric charge**.
- They have **almost no mass**.
- They interact with matter **extremely rarely**—they can pass through planets, stars, and even galaxies without being stopped.

Because of that, neutrinos can escape from regions where light cannot. And they **carry information** about where they came from.

So if we could detect neutrinos from space (**cosmic neutrinos**), we could learn things about the universe that light can never show us.

## 2. The challenge: neutrinos rarely interact with matter

Because neutrinos almost never collide with atoms, they're incredibly hard to detect.

- Pauli proposed neutrinos exist in the 1930s.
- They weren't detected until about 25 years later.
- Even after that, almost all research used **artificial neutrinos** created in particle accelerators.

To detect natural, cosmic neutrinos from space, you need something huge.

### Why huge?

- A detector must have **billions and billions of atoms** for a neutrino to hit even one.
- Therefore, the detector must be **extremely massive**.

Also, the detector must be shielded from the many other particles constantly hitting the Earth.

## 3. Solution: using the ocean as a giant neutrino detector

A group of scientists proposed a clever idea:

### DUMAND (Deep Underwater Muon and Neutrino Detector)

They want to:

- Place sensors **5 kilometers deep** in the ocean.
- Use the **seawater itself** as the detecting material.

### How it works:



- A cosmic neutrino enters the ocean.
- It finally hits an atom in the water (a very rare event).
- This collision produces:
  - charged particles
  - a flash of blue light (Cherenkov radiation)
- Sensors detect the light.

#### Why 5 kilometers deep?

The water above acts as shielding against:

- cosmic rays
- high-energy particles from the atmosphere

This prevents false signals.

#### 4. Why neutrino astronomy is exciting

The author ends by pointing out that every time astronomy expanded beyond visible light—to **radio, x-rays, gamma rays**—it led to surprising discoveries like:

- quasars
- pulsars
- radio galaxies

Because neutrinos come from places light cannot escape, **neutrino astronomy is likely to reveal new and unexpected phenomena.**

#### 17. Best title for the passage

**Correct answer: (a) At the Threshold of Neutrino Astronomy**

#### Explanation:

The passage explains:

- what neutrinos are,
- why detecting them matters,



- how difficult detection is,
- and how the new DUMAND project could make **neutrino astronomy** possible.

The whole passage is about the *beginning* of neutrino astronomy—not mainly about the ocean system (d), nor about neutrinos’ history (b), nor about creating neutrinos (c).

### 18. What the author would agree about neutrino astronomy

**Correct answer: (c) Neutrino astronomy can be expected to lead to major breakthroughs in astronomy.**

#### **Explanation:**

The last paragraph says that every new observational method (radio, x-ray, gamma-ray astronomy) led to **unexpected discoveries**, and “neutrino astronomy will doubtless bring its own share of surprises.” This implies significant breakthroughs.

- Not (d), because “more surprising than past discoveries” is not stated.
- Not (a), because neutrino astronomy will not replace all others.
- Not (b), because the author never says the field depends on DUMAND alone.

### 19. Why the author describes the development of astronomy

**Correct answer: (a) Suggest that the potential findings of neutrino astronomy can be seen as part of a series of astronomical successes.**

#### **Explanation:**

The author lists previous expansions of astronomy (radio, x-ray, gamma-ray), each of which produced surprising new objects. This pattern is used to argue that **neutrino astronomy will likely lead to new discoveries as well**.

### 20. Advantage neutrinos have for astronomy

**Correct answer: (d) Carry information about their history with them**

#### **Explanation:**

The passage says neutrinos “carry with them information about the site and circumstances of their production.” This makes them valuable for studying cosmic events.

- (a) is irrelevant.
- (b) is false—neutrinos have **no electric charge**.



- (c) is false—they have **negligible mass**.

## Explanation of the Passage

This passage (written in 1978) discusses the **new opportunities** and the **significant risks** faced by minority-owned businesses in the United States due to changes in federal contracting policies.

Let's break it down:

### 1. New opportunities for minority-owned businesses

Civil rights activists had long argued that minority businesses—owned by Blacks, Hispanics, and other minority groups—struggled because:

**They lacked access to the big contracts generated by large corporations.**

To address this problem, Congress passed laws requiring:

- Any company getting **federal contracts above \$500,000** must make a real effort to find minority subcontractors.
- Companies must **document their efforts** on government forms.
- Some federal and local agencies even created **specific percentage quotas** for minority participation in public works contracts.

**Result: a major increase in opportunities**

Corporate spending with minority-owned firms grew dramatically:

- From **\$77 million (1972)** → **\$1.1 billion (1977)**
- Expected to exceed **\$3 billion per year in the early 1980s**

This was a huge breakthrough.

### 2. But these new opportunities create new risks

The passage focuses on **three major dangers** that minority-owned businesses now face.

#### Risk 1: Overexpansion and financial overextension

Most minority-owned businesses are **small**.

To win subcontracts from large companies, they often must:

- Hire more staff

- Buy new equipment
- Expand

facilities

These require big investments.

### The danger:

If the subcontract orders are later:

- Reduced
- Slowed
- Or stopped

Then the small business is left with **high fixed costs** and **not enough income**, leading to financial trouble.

Also, preparing formal bids and estimates takes **time and money**. If these don't quickly lead to real orders, the business's **morale** and **financial health** can suffer.

### Risk 2: "Front" companies—fake minority partnerships

Some white-owned companies begin joint ventures with minority-owned firms.

This can be legitimate—sometimes both firms need each other to win contracts.

BUT civil rights groups warned that:

- Some white companies use minorities as **fake "fronts"** to qualify as minority contractors,
- While the white company does most of the work and receives most of the benefit.

This undermines the purpose of minority contracting programs.

### Risk 3: Becoming dependent on one major customer

If a minority-owned firm wins the business of one large corporation, it may grow dependent on that one customer.

### Why dangerous?

- It may stop trying to find new customers.



- It becomes vulnerable if that corporation reduces or cancels orders.
- Competition from larger companies makes diversification difficult.

So it risks becoming locked into a single relationship and unable to grow independently.

### 3. Overall meaning

The passage's message is **balanced**:

- Minority-owned businesses are receiving **more opportunities than ever before**.
- But those opportunities come with **new challenges**:
  - Overexpansion
  - Exploitation through “front” schemes
  - Dependency on a single customer

The author emphasizes that progress, while real, is not without complications and dangers.

### In summary

**The passage describes a hopeful but precarious moment for minority-owned businesses.** Government policies created unprecedented access to corporate contracts, but these same opportunities introduced financial, ethical, and structural risks that could undermine minority entrepreneurs if not carefully managed.

### 21. The primary purpose of the passage is to

**Correct answer: (b) Describe a situation and its potential drawbacks**

#### Explanation:

The passage explains:

- new opportunities for minority-owned businesses,
- BUT also several risks (overexpansion, “front” companies, dependency).

The author is describing a situation **and** its potential problems—not proposing a solution, not arguing about disagreements, and not attacking a false idea.

### 22. The passage supplies information that would answer which question?



**Correct answer: (d) What is the one set of conditions under which a small business might find itself financially overextended?**

**Explanation:**

The passage *does* explain when minority businesses might become financially overextended—namely, when they have to invest heavily in new equipment, staff, or plants to fulfill subcontracts, and then the orders decline.

The passage does **not** give:

- names of agencies (a),
- the exact government office to which reports are sent (b),
- any data on how widespread “front” practices are (c).

**23. According to the passage, civil rights activists maintain that a disadvantage for minority-owned businesses is that they have**

**Correct answer: (c) Not had sufficient opportunity to secure business created by large corporations**

**Explanation:**

This is stated explicitly in paragraph 1: Civil rights activists argued minorities lacked access to “sizable orders and sub-contracts generated by large companies.”

**24. The passage suggests that if a large business’s bids do NOT quickly result in orders, it might**

**Correct answer: (a) Experience frustration but not serious financial harm**

**Explanation:**

The passage says **small businesses** suffer financially if bids don’t turn into orders. It says corporate purchasing can be frustrating for small entrepreneurs.

But it **never** says large businesses face the same problem. Large firms already have resources; the danger applies to *small minority-owned businesses*, not large corporations.

Thus, large businesses would at most experience frustration—not crippling expenses.

**25. A minority-owned firm that does most of its business with one large customer should**

**Correct answer: (c) Try to expand its customer base to avoid becoming dependent on the corporation**

**Explanation:** The passage warns that minority firms doing most of their work for a single corporation risk **becoming dependent**, making it hard to stay competitive or diversify.

Thus, they should broaden their customer base.

## LEGAL REASONING

### **Explanation of the Passage (Legal Reasoning on Refugees & Non-Refoulement in India)**

This passage discusses a serious legal issue before the Supreme Court of India: **Can India deport migrants and refugees even if they fear persecution in their home countries?**

The Supreme Court criticized the Assam government for delaying deportation, and this raised broader legal questions about refugee protection in India.

#### **1. India has no refugee law**

The passage emphasizes an important fact:

**India has no domestic law that governs refugees or asylum.**

Unlike many other countries, India has no “Refugee Act.”

There is also no regional treaty in Asia (unlike Africa’s OAU Convention) that protects refugees.

So the legal situation is uncertain.

#### **2. Government’s argument before the Supreme Court**

The government told the Court that:

**The issue is not justiciable (not fit for the Court).**

Why?

Because the Supreme Court can enforce only **fundamental rights of Indian citizens**.

Government also argued:

**India is not a signatory to:**

- the 1951 Refugee Convention
- the 1967 Protocol

So India is **not bound** to protect refugees under those treaties and is not required to follow **non-refoulement**.

### 3. BUT — International Law still protects refugees in India

The author explains that the government's argument is **not legally correct**, because:

#### **Non-refoulement is Customary International Law.**

This means:

- ALL countries must follow it
- Even if they are not signatories to any refugee treaty
- Because it is universally accepted
- And is a **jus cogens norm** (a peremptory norm from which NO country may deviate)

#### **What is non-refoulement?**

A country cannot send a person back to a place where they face torture, persecution, or death.

This applies to ANY PERSON:

- citizen or non-citizen
- refugee
- asylum seeker
- even someone accused of a crime

### 4. India is bound by other international human rights treaties

Although India is not part of the Refugee Convention, India is a party to:

- **ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)**
- **CAT (Convention Against Torture)**

Both prohibit sending a person to a place where they risk **torture or persecution**.

This indirectly requires India to follow **non-refoulement**.

### 5. The Indian judiciary already protects refugees

The passage states:

**Indian courts have repeatedly protected refugees using Article 21 of the Constitution.**

Article 21 = *Right to Life and Personal Liberty*

This right applies to **all persons**, not just citizens.

Therefore, courts can stop deportation if:

- the individual faces danger in their home country.

So India's courts **recognize the principle of non-refoulement**, even without a refugee law.

**26. What can be attributed to the above passage?**

**Correct answer: (d) None of the above.**

**Explanation:**

The government argued that courts can enforce fundamental rights **only for Indian citizens**, but the passage does **not** say that this argument is correct.

The passage instead shows that **Indian courts can enforce Article 21 rights for foreigners/refugees** (based on non-refoulement and human rights obligations). Hence, none of the options (a), (b), (c) accurately reflect the passage.

**27. X, a Hindu criminal tortured in Bangladesh comes to India. What conclusion follows?**

**Correct answer: (c) He can get protection under the principle of non-refoulement.**

**Explanation:**

The passage clearly states:

- Non-refoulement is **customary international law**.
- It is part of **jus cogens** (no derogation allowed).
- Indian courts have applied non-refoulement under **Article 21**, even for **foreigners**.
- It protects **any person** who fears torture or persecution—**even criminals**.

Option (b) is wrong because CAA does NOT automatically make a Hindu refugee a citizen.  
Option (a) is wrong because Article 21 applies to *all persons*, including criminals and non-citizens.

**28. Which statement can correctly be attributed to the author?**

**Correct answer: (b) There is no specific law as such that deals with the deportation of refugees; India has to rely on various international norms.**

**Explanation:**

The passage says:

- “There is no domestic procedure or law that governs the protection of refugees in India.”
- “Protection from refoulement relies on general human rights law.”  
Thus (b) is correct.  
Option (a) is incorrect because the passage does **not** say India has “various acts and laws dealing with deportation of refugees”; it clearly says there is **no such law**.

**29. Government argues Supreme Court lacks jurisdiction because India is not party to refugee conventions. What is true?**

**Correct answer: (b) The Supreme Court can hear the matter as despite not being a party to any international convention on refugees, we are party to other conventions which affirm principle of non-refoulement.**

**Explanation:**

The passage explains that:

- India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- BUT India is a party to ICCPR and CAT.
- Non-refoulement is **customary international law** and part of **Article 21** protection in India. Thus the Supreme Court **can** hear the case.

**30. Najma Kareer fears persecution in Bangladesh. Can India deport her?**

**Correct answer: (a) India will permit her to stay and allow her asylum as its obligation under the principle of non-refoulement which is Customary International Law.**

**Explanation:**

- She fears persecution (religious fanatic violence and death threats).
- Non-refoulement prohibits returning a person to danger.
- Non-refoulement is customary international law and part of jus cogens.
- Indian courts have protected refugees from deportation using Article 21.

Therefore, India cannot legally deport her.

**Key Points from the Passage**

**1. Stages of a Crime**

- **Intention (Mens Rea):** Mental stage, mere intention alone is generally **not punishable**, except in some statutory offences like attempt to rape.
- **Preparation:** Arranging means to commit a crime; preparation alone is **not punishable**.
- **Attempt:** Direct action towards committing the crime **after preparation**; this is punishable even if the crime fails.
- **Accomplishment:** Crime successfully completed; the person is fully liable.

## 2. Ingredients of an Attempt

- **Guilty mind (Mens Rea):** Intention to commit a specific offence.
- **Act done towards commission:** Some direct action must be taken beyond mere preparation.

## 3. Distinction

- **Preparation ≠ Attempt** (Preparation alone is not punishable).
- **Attempt = Punishable** (even if crime is impossible or fails).

## Answers and Reasoning

### 31. Mens Rea and preparation alone punishable?

- Statement I: **Wrong** — Mens Rea (intention) + preparation alone is **not punishable**.
- Statement II: **Wrong** — **Intention alone** is never punishable in law. There must be a guilty intention (**mens rea**) accompanied by a wrongful act (**actus reus**) to constitute a crime. A person's thoughts or intentions, no matter how evil, do not incur criminal liability unless they are manifested in an overt, legally prohibited act or omission. In offences such as rape, the intention must be coupled with an act that constitutes the offense as defined by law (e.g., sexual intercourse without consent), for the person to be held liable.

**Answer:** (d) none of the above

### 32. A goes to bank to rob but helps a man instead

- He had intention + preparation (going to bank), but **did not take any step towards committing the offence**.
- No attempt is made because helping the man **interrupts the criminal act**.

**Answer:** (d) A is not guilty because the act does not amount to Attempt

**33. A hands over fake currency by mistake**

- **Attempt requires intention + act.**
- Here, **intention to hand that note to this shopkeeper was absent**; it was a mistake.

**Answer:** (b) A is not liable for attempt because he did not have the intention

**34. A breaks box to steal jewels but finds nothing**

- **All elements of attempt are fulfilled:**
  - Intention to steal
  - Preparation done
  - Direct act toward committing offence (breaking box)
- The fact that there was nothing to steal **does not absolve him.**

**Answer:** (d) A is liable for attempt

**35. A buys guns, masks, motorcycle to rob a bank**

- **Buying items = Preparation**, not an attempt
- No direct step taken towards committing robbery yet

**Answer:** (b) A is liable for preparation

**Key Points from the Passage**

**1. Freedom of Press**

- Considered **essential for democracy**; allows free political discussion and public education.
- Comes under **Article 19(1)(a) – Freedom of Speech and Expression.**
- Includes:
  1. **Freedom of access** to all sources of information.
  2. **Freedom of publication.**

3. **Freedom of circulation.**

1. **Judicial Observations**

- Press plays a significant role in democratic governance (Romesh Thapar, Indian Express Newspapers cases).
- Courts have the duty to **uphold freedom of press** and strike down laws that infringe it (Sakal Papers case).

3. **Restrictions on Freedom of Press (Article 19(2))**

- Security of the State
- Friendly relations with Foreign States
- Public Order
- Decency or Morality
- Contempt of Court

4. **Sedition (Section 124A IPC)**

- Punishes acts **bringing hatred, contempt, or disaffection** towards the government.
- Mere criticism of government policies **without inciting hatred or disaffection is not sedition** (Explanation 3).

**Analysis of Questions**

**36. Freedom of press and freedom of speech**

- Statement I: **Incorrect** — Freedom of press is **not absolute**; it is subject to reasonable restrictions.
- Statement II: **Correct** — Freedom of speech includes **right to hold opinions** (as per Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms).

**Answer:** (b) Only II

**37. Sedition and political discussion**

- Sedition is a **restriction** on freedom of press.

- Political discussion is **essential for the proper functioning of democracy** (Romesh Thapar case).

**Answer:** (a) Sedition is a restriction on the exercise of freedom of press

### 38. Newspaper criticized Kashmir policy

- Newspaper **merely criticized the government policy**.
- Section 124A IPC (Sedition) applies only if there is **incitement of hatred, contempt, or disaffection** towards the government.
- Here, X acted on his own; the newspaper did not incite sedition.

**Answer:** (d) The newspaper should not be charged with sedition

### 39. Notification preventing criticism of Citizenship Amendment Act

- Blanket bans on criticism violate **freedom of press**.
- Preventing criticism **cannot be justified solely on the basis of potential chaos**; courts require **reasonable restrictions under law**, not arbitrary censorship.

**Answer:** (d) The notification violates freedom of press

### 40. Article criticizing Ayodhya judgment and urging disobedience

- **Criticism alone is allowed** (freedom of speech and press).
- However, urging citizens to **disobey a court order** may amount to **contempt of court**, which is a **reasonable restriction** under Article 19(2).

**Answer:** (c) The news article can be taken down since reasonable restrictions can be imposed on freedom of press on the ground of contempt of court

### Key Points from the Passage

#### 1. Fundamental Rights to Movement and Residence

- **Article 19(1)(d):** Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- **Article 19(1)(e):** Right to reside and settle in any part of India.

#### 2. Reasonable Restrictions

- These rights are **not absolute**.

- Parliament or State Legislature can impose **reasonable restrictions** in the interest of:
  - General public
  - Protection of Scheduled Tribes
  - Security, public order, morality, etc.

### 3. Judicial Review

- Courts do **not question the necessity or wisdom** of the law.
- Courts check whether the restriction is **within constitutional limits** and not **excessive**.

### 4. Practical Examples of Restrictions

- Helmet law for motorcyclists.
- Barricading streets during protests for public safety.
- Externment orders against criminals for public order.
- Passport seizure in public interest (subject to statutory procedure).

### Analysis of Questions

#### 41. Helmet law for two-wheelers

- Restriction on movement is for **public safety** – a **reasonable restriction**.
- The law does **not violate constitutional rights**.

b. **Answer:** The provision is not violative of the Constitution of India because it is a reasonable restriction on the freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.

#### 42. Barricading students during protest

- Restriction is imposed **in the interest of public safety** and **to prevent violence**.
- Therefore, it qualifies as a **reasonable restriction** under Article 19(1)(d).

B. **Answer:** The act is not violative of the Constitution of India because it is a reasonable restriction in the interests of general public.

**43. Externment order against Mr. A**

- Mr. A involved in **illegal narcotics business and riots**.
- Restriction on movement/residence is **reasonable**, aimed at **public order and safety**.
- Constitutionally valid as **law imposing externment is upheld by Supreme Court**.

A. **Answer:** It is a reasonable restriction on Mr. A's fundamental right of free movement throughout the territory of India.

**44. Passport seizure**

- Seizing passport restricts **international movement**, which is **not the same as free movement or residence within India**.
- Fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(d) and (e) **apply only within Indian territory**.

**Answer:** Mr. Z cannot challenge the letter on the ground that it is violative of his fundamental right(s) of free movement throughout the territory of India and/or to residence and settlement in any part of India.

**45. Incorrect statement**

- Statements I, II, III are correct.
- Statement IV is **incorrect** because **constitutional validity of a law can be challenged only before the courts, not the legislature**.

d. **Answer:** The constitutional validity of a law imposing reasonable restrictions on fundamental rights can be challenged by a citizen before the legislature.

**Key Points from the Passage**

1. **Definition of Bigamy**

- A person commits **bigamy** if they marry again while the first marriage is **still subsisting**.
- Both marriages must be **legally valid** for bigamy to arise.
- **Punishment:** Imprisonment up to 7 years + fine (under **IPC Section 494**).

2. **Religion-Specific Exceptions**

- Penal law is **generally applicable to all citizens**, but some personal laws may create exceptions:
  - **Hindu Law:** Bigamy is **not permitted**.
  - **Other religions** (e.g., Islam): Some allow polygamy, and it may not constitute bigamy under their personal law.

### 3. Religious Conversion Does Not Excuse Bigamy

- A Hindu who converts to a religion permitting multiple wives and marries again is still **liable for bigamy**.
- The first Hindu marriage remains **valid**, so marrying again is illegal.

### 4. Validity of Marriage Matters

- If the **first marriage is not valid** (e.g., no legal/ceremonial compliance), bigamy cannot be said to occur.

## Analysis of Questions

### 46. Validity of first and second marriage

- First marriage (Hindu) is **valid**.
- Second marriage (after conversion to religion X) does **not affect the first marriage**.

**Answer:** Mr. A's marriage with Ms. C has not affected the validity of his marriage with Ms. B.

### 47. Liability for bigamy after conversion

- Conversion to religion X does **not exempt** Mr. A from liability.
- Both **Hindu law** and **IPC Section 494** apply.

**Answer:** Both (A) and (B).

### 48. First marriage invalid (only family blessings)

- Since the first marriage was **not valid**, Mr. A cannot be said to commit bigamy.

**Answer:** Mr. A has not committed the offence of bigamy because his first marriage is not valid.

### 49. Marriage under religion P, converts to religion Q

- Religion P allows only **monogamy**, first marriage is valid.
- Second marriage under religion Q makes him liable for **bigamy under**:
  - Penal law of India (IPC Section 494)
  - Law of religion P (monogamy precondition)
- Law of religion Q is **irrelevant** since bigamy is judged by first marriage's law and IPC.

**Answer:** Both (B) and (C).

#### 50. Incorrect statement

- Statement I: "Marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife is a **pre-condition for performing a valid Hindu marriage**" – **Incorrect**, because monogamy is required.
- Other statements are **correct**.

**Answer:** Marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife is a pre-condition for performing a valid Hindu marriage.

#### Key Points from the Passage

##### 1. Electoral Bonds Validity

- Issued for **15 calendar days** from the date of purchase.
- If deposited after the validity period, the bank **will not credit** the bond.

##### 2. Tranches and Additional Sale Periods

- Normally, bonds are sold in January, April, July, and October (10 days each).
- In **election years** (Assembly or Lok Sabha), an **additional sale period** is allowed:
  - Original: 30 days in Lok Sabha election years.
  - Amendment: +15 days for Assembly election years.
- So, the government **cannot sell additional bonds outside these periods** unless it falls within the scheme's provision.

##### 3. Eligibility of Political Parties

- Only parties that have **secured at least 1% of votes** in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly election are eligible to ~~receive~~ bonds (Nov 15, 2022 notification).

#### 4. Transfer and Deposit Rules

- Once a **bond is deposited**, the money is **credited immediately** to the political party.
- The donor **cannot reclaim** it after deposit.

#### Question-wise Analysis

##### 51. Assad gives bond to PPP, deposited on Nov 16

- Bond purchased: Nov 9, valid 15 days - valid till Nov 24.
- But, the **bank refused** credit because the bond must be deposited within 15 days of issue, not the sale period.
- Bond valid from **Nov 9 to Nov 23 (15 days)**; deposited Nov 16 - **within validity**, so bank **should credit**.

d. **Answer:** No, the bank is **incorrect**; the bond was still valid on Nov 16.

##### 52. 24th tranche in 2023, no elections in Assad's State

- Amendment: additional 15 days in **any year with Assembly elections in any State**, not necessarily Assad's.
- Sale is **valid under the scheme**.

D. **Answer:** No, since the changes to the scheme allow bonds to be issued for 15 additional days in any year with Assembly elections.

##### 53. – Palak wants bond back after PPP deposited it

- Once the **bond is deposited**, the money is credited immediately to the party.
- Donor **cannot reclaim** the bond, even if validity period hasn't expired.

b. **Answer:** No, since the party had already deposited the bond and the money had been credited.

##### 54. – Newly formed MPPP ineligible?



- Nov 15 notification: only parties with  $\geq 1\%$  votes in last Lok Sabha/Assembly election can receive bonds.
- MPPP is newly formed - no past election record - ineligible.

c. **Answer:** No, since it does not fulfil the eligibility criteria announced on Nov 15, 2022.

**55. – Abraham gives bond to PPP in a different State**

- PPP is active only in Assad's State.
- Bond validity: 15 days from purchase; Abraham tries to deposit **after expiry** (Dec 5 > 15 days from sale in Nov).
- Primary reason: **bond expired**.

A. **Answer:** The bond was no longer valid.

**LOGICAL REASONING**

**The Core Issue**

**Middle-aged women face unique and compounded workplace discrimination due to overlapping stereotypes about gender, age, motherhood, and menopause.**

Even though men and women may gain experience and capability as they age, **women are judged more harshly**, especially in their mid-30s to late-40s. This results in:

- declining performance evaluations,
- fewer promotions,
- reduced hiring opportunities,
- skepticism about their commitment,
- and negative assumptions tied to menopause.

These biases do **not** affect men in the same way, creating a systemic inequality that limits women's career advancement during a crucial period of professional growth.

Q56.

Gendered networks mean **men gain greater access to senior leaders**, and this becomes a difficulty for mid-career women.

So the true statement must say:

- Women **do not** get equal access,
- Therefore career progression becomes **harder**, not easier.

**Correct answer:** (c)

“Mid-career women do not find it as easy to get access... They therefore find career progression or new opportunities harder to come by.”

**Q57.**

The “motherhood penalty” means people assume mid-30s to late-40s women are **less committed to work**, leading to **hiring disadvantages**.

**Correct answer:** (b)

“People are more hesitant to hire women... but may be more willing to hire men...”

**Q58.**

Female professors’ evaluations **drop sharply in mid-career**, while men’s remain stable. If promotions rely mostly on evaluations, then:

- Men maintain steady chances.
- Women suffer reduced mid-career promotion likelihood.

**Correct answer:** (a)

**Q59.**

The passage says menopausal women are associated with **negative stereotypes** (illness, aging). So the author would disagree with any statement claiming **positive** perceptions or outcomes.

**Correct answer:** (d)

“Women going through menopause are more likely to be perceived positively...”

(Option (a) is not directly supported or contradicted; the passage does not say they quit voluntarily.)

**Q60.**

The main argument: **women are perceived and treated more negatively than men as they age**. Therefore, the strongest supporting evidence would be independent studies showing the same thing.

**Correct answer:** (b)

Q61.

Laura Kray argues that after ~47, women's evaluations rise because they are seen as **more grandmotherly**, i.e., **more warmly and positively**.

A statement that weakens this would show the opposite: that being perceived as grandmotherly is **negative**, not positive.

**Correct answer:** (c)  
"Women professors perceived as being 'grandmotherly' are regarded as slow, inefficient, and outdated..."

### The Issue in the Passage

The passage explains **why humans are so easily drawn to negative, frightening, and sensational news** and how modern digital media **takes advantage of this weakness**.

The issue is twofold:

#### 1. Human psychology is wired to focus on negative information

We have two built-in psychological biases:

##### a. Negativity Bias

Humans pay more attention to bad news than good news.  
This comes from evolution:

- Being overly cautious helped our ancestors survive.
- So our brains still react strongly to danger, fear, and threats—even if they are rare today.

##### b. Availability Bias

We believe something is common if we can easily recall examples of it. Because we constantly see memorable stories (plane crashes, kidnappings, violence), we think the world is more dangerous than it really is.

#### 2. Modern digital media exploits these biases

Today's media—especially social platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Google—**profit from keeping our attention**, so they feed us:

- extreme news
- shocking headlines
- frightening or sensational content

This is because:



- “boring” everyday life does not get clicks.
- “horrifying” stories hold attention and generate ad revenue.

As a result:

- Our perception of the world becomes distorted.
- We believe rare disasters are common.
- We live with unnecessary fear.

### Q62. Which option most weakens the author’s argument?

The author’s argument depends on the idea that **negativity bias** and **availability bias**—both evolutionary traits—still affect humans today.

So the argument would be weakened if these biases **no longer exist in modern humans**.

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(b)**

“Behavioural traits that helped us in the days when we were hunter-gatherers are no longer found in modern-day humans.”

### Q63. What would the author agree with?

The author says modern media feeds us **sensational, shocking, attention-grabbing news** because our own lives are “nice but boring.”

So the news is:

- exciting,
- extreme,
- **very unlike** normal life.

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(b)**

“Contemporary media exposes us to exciting news... very unlike the kinds of things we usually encounter in our lives.”

### Q64. Based on the “nice neighbours with boring lives” statement

News is the opposite of everyday experience—sensational, not boring. Thus, the author would agree that **constant exposure to negative, extreme news distorts our perception**.



Between (a) and (d), both seem right, but the question asks **based on that statement + argument about modern media.**

The clearest inference: news is **very different from our day-to-day lives.**

**Correct answer: (d)**  
“The news modern media exposes us to is very different from our day-to-day experiences.”

**Q65. What conclusion is most supported by negativity bias?**

Negativity bias - we pay more attention to **bad** news than **good** news.

Thus the correct answer is the option that contrasts **negative vs positive** news, where we notice the negative more.

**Correct answer: (c)**  
“We are more likely to notice a story about increasing pollution levels (negative) than a story about improving educational levels (positive).”

**Q66. How to counter availability bias?**

Availability bias = thinking something is common just because it's easy to recall.

To counter it - we must **expose ourselves to a wider variety of information**, not just what the algorithm pushes at us.

**Correct answer: (d)**  
“Seek out news sources and stories that we may not otherwise have been exposed to.”

**Q67. Which assumption makes the author's conclusion logical?**

The author says:  
Because horrific stories stick in memory - they **skew our view of the world.**

This conclusion only follows if we assume **our view of the world is shaped by the information we consume.**

**Correct answer: (a)**  
“Our ideas about the world are shaped by the information we are exposed to.”

**Issue of the Passage**

The passage highlights the **growing problem of high stress, anxiety, and depression among college students**, caused by the difficult transition to college life, increased academic and social pressures, financial strain, and the lack of adequate mental-health resources on campuses. As students struggle to adjust to independence, multiple life changes across academic, emotional, and personal domains make them vulnerable, while colleges often fail to provide enough support to meet these rising mental-health needs.

**Q68. Objective of the study**

The passage describes:

- Why students attend college
- The challenges of transitioning to college
- Stress, anxiety, depression
- Lack of campus resources

It is **not** about anti-family agendas or obstacles targeting meritorious students.

It maps the **stress points and challenges students face during the transition to adulthood through college.**

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(a)**

*To map the various stages of pressure points of adulthood in the process of education.*

**Q69. Factors causing more stress**

The passage identifies several stressors:

- Increased academic demands
- Less time with family
- Interpersonal issues with roommates/romantic interests
- Financial stress
- Competitive work
- Uncertainty about future careers
- Difficulty adjusting to independence

The option that BEST captures the author's main point about **adjustment difficulty across life domains** is:

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(c)**

*Failure to adapt to the transition to college life and to adjust various life domains...*

**Q70. Underlying assumption**

The passage assumes:

- College students are vulnerable to stress.
- Stress is widespread and measurable.
- Many develop anxiety/depression due to college pressures.

The underlying assumption is that **stress affects each student differently**, but seriously.

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(d)**

*Stress is subjective for each student.*

(The other options introduce ideas not mentioned in the passage.)

### Q71. Suitable title

The passage is about:

- challenges,
- stress,
- psychological strain in college,
- the transition to independence.

Option (a) captures **both the difficulties (turbulence)** and the **journey of growth (triumph)**.

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(a)**

*Triumph and Turbulence of College Education System*

### Q72. Best coping mechanism solution

The passage notes:

- 75–80% are moderately stressed
- 10–12% severely stressed
- Not enough campus resources

- Students \_\_\_\_\_ need \_\_\_\_\_ help

So the best solution must include **institutional support AND student engagement with coping mechanisms**.

**Correct**

**answer:**

**(c)**

*College authorities shall provide access to counseling AND students must engage in coping mechanisms.*

## Issue of the Passage

The passage highlights a **serious unintended problem** created by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

### 1. The Core Problem

POCSO raised the age of consent from **16 to 18 years**, making all individuals under 18 legally “children.” This means:

- Even if two teenagers (e.g., both 16) are in a **mutual, consensual romantic relationship**,
- The girl’s consent has *no legal validity* if her family disapproves,
- And the boy can be charged with **statutory rape**, even though both are minors and the relationship is consensual.

This leads to **criminalizing normal teenage relationships**.

### 2. How This Causes Injustice

Families often file police complaints simply out of **disapproval**, not because of actual harm. This turns harmless, consensual teenage romance into:

- rape charges,
- lengthy legal harassment,
- emotional trauma,
- and misuse of a law meant to protect children from *sexual predators*, not from each other.

High Courts (Allahabad, Delhi, Madras) have voiced concern over this injustice.

### 3. Systemic Burden

Because many POCSO cases involve 16–18-year-olds in consensual relationships:

- Nearly **half** of POCSO cases fall into this category.
- The legal system becomes **clogged** with cases that are *not* sexual abuse.
- This delays justice for **actual victims** of sexual assault.

### 4. Need for Reform

The passage argues that:

- The age of consent should return to **16 years**.
- Adolescents deserve recognition of their **romantic and sexual autonomy**.
- The law must differentiate between **consensual teenage relationships** and **sexual exploitation**.

**Q78. What strengthens the author's opinion?**

The author argues that prosecuting consensual teenage romances **clogs the legal system**, leaving less time to pursue **real sexual assault cases**. So the option that strengthens this point must show that freeing up the legal system would actually help with **genuine assault cases**.

Let's evaluate:

- (a) *There are many unreported sexual assault cases.*  
This may be true, but it does **not** relate to reducing system load.
- (b) *Speedy prosecution of sexual assault cases is desirable.*  
This directly supports the idea that the system needs more space to focus on real cases.
- (c) *Consensual romance... can amount to sexual assault.*  
This weakens the author's argument.
- (d) *Sexual assault and rape are different.*  
Irrelevant.

**Correct answer: (b)**

**Q79. What has the author conveyed regarding statutory prosecution?**

The passage suggests:

- The law unfairly criminalizes consensual adolescent relationships.
- The age of consent should be reduced.
- The law reflects outdated thinking.
- It violates adolescent autonomy.

Which option matches this?

Let's examine:

- *Statutory rape does not violate the romantic and sexual autonomy of young adults.* - Opposite of what the author says.

- *Statutory rape must be met with stricter punishment.* → Opposite.
  - *Statutory rape must be abolished.* → Passage does not say this.
  - *Statutory rape is a relic of Victorian morality.* → This aligns with the criticism of outdated and unjust legal standards.
- Correct answer: (d)**  
(Statutory rape is a relic of Victorian morality.)

**Q80. Which option does not represent the author's view?**

The author clearly believes:

- Teenagers have a right to romantic and sexual autonomy → (a) is correct.
- Police complaints often persecute/harass teen lovers → (b) is correct.
- Consent of minor girls has **no legal validity** under POCSO → (c) is correct (and this is part of the problem).

The option that does **not** represent the author's view is:

(d) *Consent of minor girls have legal validity.*  
This is **not** true according to the passage.

**Correct answer: (d)**

