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Directions (1-10): Given below is a passage filled with the blanks. Each blank is then followed by five choices and each choice has two options. You must choose the option in which both the words of the option fit in the blank given.

The ____ (1) _____ amounts of forgotten and disregarded food that are tossed mindlessly into our landfills are a global ____ (2) _____ of massive proportions. And the higher the population ____ (3) _____, the more surplus food is produced. Between 2009 and 2030, the World Bank estimates that the demand for food will increase by 50% as the global population grows, creating a positive feedback loop resulting in further waste. Acidification and salinization resulting from inappropriate use of nitrogen fertilizers and the removal of beneficial vegetation destroy nutrient cycles within the soil and cause once rich landscapes to become dry, ____ (4) _____ plains; unfit to house life (“Salinity and acidity”). Produce wasted in ____ (5) _____ countries such as Europe and the United States lead to unneeded loss of soil fertility and unnecessary expenditures of fresh water. The developed world in particular speeds the process of global warming by ____ (6) _____ such large amounts of food. Food waste is buried in landfills, where it decomposes “into toxic effluent and methane, a greenhouse gas twenty-one times more ____ (7) _____ than carbon dioxide”. While disposal and waste of food is a problem of global concern, unethical food waste is not only a ____ (8) _____ concern; it is also an economic and environmental problem. The excessive amounts of food wasted could feed millions of hungry people. Further complicating the problem are the unseen inputs that are necessary to create food that is ____ (9) _____ for the trash. Producing food that is squandered also wastes important finite resources such as oil, freshwater, soil fertility, land, various ecosystem services as well as undocumented human labor. Understanding the true price tag that accompanies food waste is the first step toward creating a ____ (10) _____ food system.

- Q1.** (a) Indicative/Characteristic
(b) Penniless/poor
(c) Copious/Profuse
(d) Immoral/Wicked
(e) Intimidating/Menacing

- Q2.** (a) Bliss/Elation
(b) Travesty/Distortion
(c) Complacency/Contentment
(d) Avaricious/Materialistic
(e) Ceremonious/Solemn

- Q3.** (a) Soars/Escalates
(b) Infers/Chokes
(c) Subdues/Daunts
(d) Standardizes/Assimilates
(e) Franks/Blazes

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- Q4.** (a) Engrossing/Charming
(b) Lush/Thriving
(c) Sodden/Streaming
(d) Arid/Barren
(e) Cursed/Mesmerizing

- Q5.** (a) Melodious/harmonious
(b) Affluent/Opulent
(c) Lonely/Secluded
(d) Affluent/Effluent
(e) Involved/Precluded

- Q6.** (a) Branding/Stamping
(b) Composing/Devising
(c) Squandering/Dissipating
(d) Inducing/Prompting
(e) Replacing/substituting

- Q7.** (a) Compensating/Reimbursing
(b) Superficial/Exterior
(c) Howling/Yelping
(d) Fragile/Insubstantial
(e) Potent/Vigorous

- Q8.** (a) Humanitarian/Benevolent
(b) Inhumane/Brutal
(c) Serene/Placid
(d) Violent/intemperate
(e) Dignified/Noble

- Q9.** (a) Servitude/domination
(b) Predestined/destined
(c) Lacking/Missing
(d) Lightning/Sparkling
(e) Rising/Augmenting

- Q10.** (a) Preaching/Sermon
(b) Dirty/Untidy
(c) Sustainable/Endurable
(d) Characteristic/Feature
(e) Scent/Misty



Direction (11-15): In the passage given below there are blanks which are numbered from 11 to 15. They are to be filled with the options given below the passage against each of the respective numbers. Find out the appropriate word in each case which can most suitably complete the sentence without altering its meaning. If none of the words given in options fits in, mark 'None of these' as your answer choice.

Farm indebtedness is the outcome of(11)..... problems. Marginal farmers comprise more than 80 per cent of the farm population, work on half a hectare for a meagre produce that fetches a(12)..... price. This is what drives indebtedness and a one-time waiver will offer nothing by way of a sustainable solution. Prices and costs must be addressed simultaneously as providing better returns without addressing the reasons for indebtedness will be(13)..... . The increased returns will be sucked out by debt servicing and(14)..... the debt trap. Also, assured better returns through Minimum Support Price is a travesty because India does not have a system in place to procure from most farmers, certainly not in the east and north-east. Assam saw no more than 24,000 MT of rice being procured; the rest of the north-east(15)..... worse, while West Bengal's and Bihar's shocking procurement infrastructure just cannot deliver MSPs to paddy farmers.

- Q11.** (a) must
(b) multidimension
(c) curtail
(d) myriad
(e) Both (a) and (b)

- Q12.** (a) pathetic
(b) Both (a) and (c)
(c) comical
(d) cheerful
(e) negligent

- Q13.** (a) useful
(b) emptied
(c) futile
(d) Both (a) and (c)
(e) fruitful

- Q14.** (a) break
(b) deepen
(c) highlighting
(d) Both (b) and (c)
(e) excavating

- Q15.** (a) along
(b) fared
(c) managed
(d) survival
(e) Both (a) and (d)



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Directions (16-20): For each question, four sentences are given corresponding to each option. One of the sentences is grammatically incorrect. Choose the option which mentions the grammatically incorrect sentence. If all the four sentences are grammatically correct, then choose option (e) "All are correct" as your answer.

Q16. (a) The most important aspect in a relationship is that we should stand for transformation and growth.

(b) Why does glamour have more appeal than goodness?

(c) Gratitude is more than just another emotion or expression of humanity.

(d) When we understand something intellectually, we do so in relation to something else.

(e) All are correct

Q17. (a) Business cycle have been with us as long as capitalism has.

(b) The spiritual whole is internally divided into subject and object.

(c) Appearance is merely a subjective creation, falsely identified by us with reality.

(d) The factual debate about whether global warming is real is, or at least should be over.

(e) All are correct

Q18. (a) In most earthquakes the Earth's crust cracks like porcelain.

(b) In a world of many trading countries, the trade between two countries need not be balanced for the trade of each to be in global balance.

(c) Turning the business around involved more than segmenting and pulling out of retail.

(d) Dream analysts believe that every component in a dream has some significance to the person dreaming.

(e) All are correct

Q19. (a) By integral idealism we may understand a synthetic philosophy of spirit.

(b) I use the concept of emergence as descriptive rather than explanatory.

(c) This is the best gift which she could ever get in her marriage anniversary.

(d) The noticeable fact is that evolution doesn't mean the total supersession of lower forms in course of time.

(e) All are correct

Q20. (a) BJP's allies suddenly seem to have a better bargaining hand after the saffron party's defeat in three assembly polls.

(b) The detailed study of mind is the subject matter of psychology, just as the detailed study of nature is the subject of physical science.

(c) While learning how to make you comfortable with new people, being sociable is of utmost importance.

(d) Though he is a great musician but he has his keen interest in gastronomy.

(e) All are correct

Directions (21-25): The following question consists of a sentence which is divided into three parts which contain grammatical errors in one or more than one part of the sentence. If there is an error in any part of the sentence, find the correct alternatives to replace those parts from the three options given below each question to make the sentence grammatically correct. If there is an error in any part of the sentence but none of the alternatives is correct to replace that part, then choose (d), i.e., None of the (I), (II) and (III) as your answer. If the given sentence is grammatically correct or does not require any correction, choose (e), i.e., No correction required as your answer.

Q21. When she went to the zoo, (I)/Lindsay got to see not only tigers, (II)/ but polar bears, iguanas, and toucans (III).

- (I) When she goes to the zoo,
(II) Lindsay got to seeing not only tigers,
(III) but also polar bears, iguanas, and toucans.

- (a) Only (I)
(b) Only (III)
(c) Both (I) and (III)
(d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
(e) No correction required

Q22. The teacher reprimanded his class, (I)/saying that he was neither pleased with their poor work (II)/nor was he willing to accept their rowdy behavior (III).

- (I) The teacher reprimand his class,
(II) saying that he was either pleased with their poor work
(III) nor willing to accept their rowdy behavior.

- (a) Only (I)
(b) Both (II) and (III)
(c) Only (III)
(d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
(e) No correction required

Q23. While selecting her classes for the next semester(I),/ Emmie knew she would have to take either Introduction(II)/ to Literary Analysis nor Neuroscience, but not both(III).

- (I) While selecting for her classes for the next semester,
(II) Emmie know she will have to take either Introduction
(III) to Literary Analysis or Neuroscience, but not both.

- (a) Only (I)
(b) Only (III)
(c) Both (I) and (II)
(d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
(e) No correction required



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Q24. A Emily Brontë 's novel Wuthering Heights, (I) / the heroine, Catherine, must choose (II)/between true love or social pre-eminence.(III)

**(I) In Emily Brontë 's novel Wuthering Heights,
(II) the heroine, Catherine, must have choose
(III) between true love and social pre-eminence.**

- (a) Both (I) and (III)
- (b) Only (III)
- (c) Only (II)
- (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) No correction required

Q25. Although the giant squid is an elusive creature rarely seen by humans, (I)/ scientists are beginning to gain a better understanding of the creature (II)/by studying it using remote cameras.(III)

**(I) Because the giant squid is a elusive creature rarely seen by humans,
(II) scientists are beginning to gain a better understanding for the creature
(III) by using it to study it using remote cameras.**

- (a) Only (II)
- (b) Both (II) & (III)
- (c) Both (I) and (III)
- (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) No correction required

Directions (26-30): In each sentence below, four words are given in BOLD, one of which may be either inappropriate in the context of the sentence or wrongly spelt. Choose that inappropriate option. If all the four words are appropriate and also correctly spelt, mark option (e) i.e. all correct as your answer.

Q26. Prana is finer than the electromagnetic forces and is the pyramidal sea of energy from which the very atoms emerge.

- (a) Finer
- (b) Electromagnetic
- (c) Pyramidal
- (d) Emerge
- (e) All are correct

Q27. The power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking' by Susa Cain is a Kick-starter of the quite revolution and talks about all successful introverts.

- (a) Introverts
- (b) Quite
- (c) Revolution
- (d) Successful
- (e) All are correct

Q28. In a world that is far more **choatic** than ever since Independence, India must keep its **options** open and be **multi-aligned**, even as the U.S. forms a key part in that **scheme** of things.

- (a) Choatic
- (b) Options
- (c) Multi-aligned
- (d) Scheme
- (e) All are correct

Q29. Water is available in **huge** quantities throughout the world, but **scarcities** can arise on a local level, since rainfall, natural water reservoirs, and demand create an **uneven** distribution **at** the globe.

- (a) Huge
- (b) Scarcities
- (c) Uneven
- (d) At
- (e) All are correct

Q30. Washington is **skeptic** of Seoul **taking** a **conciliatory approach** to Pyongyang.

- (a) Skeptic
- (b) Taking
- (c) Conciliatory
- (d) Approach
- (e) All are correct

Directions (31-35): Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which one sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

Q31. Hopes of lower interest rates and more liquidity on the back of easing retail inflation and the Reserve Bank's outreach efforts and foreign fund inflows aided the barometer S&P BSE Sensex to gain over 150 points while NSE Nifty50 ended the session just short of 10,800 points. On a sector-specific basis, the rise was supported by healthy buying in the state-owned banking stocks after Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday held a meeting with heads of Mumbai-based public sector banks. _____.

- (a) Crucial supports to watch for any weakness are at 10,750.
- (b) However, three days of upward movement gave investors a chance to book profits, capping the session's gains.
- (c) Speaking at Republic Summit here, Ambani , who is chairman of energy-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd, said data of an individual or business belongs to them and not to corporates who could use it to monetize from them.
- (d) The decision was made upon a review of the surveys conducted by the Reserve Bank to gauge consumer confidence, households' inflation expectations, the corporate sector performance, credit conditions.
- (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the minutes of the 14th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent.

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Q32. It is a complex and relatively new notion for us humans who seem to be programmed to think that the standards of human nature are issued from some authority and we are simply its creatures. _____ . Or, that the nation itself replaces god. The state becomes the sole bearer of the idea of the nation and takes it upon itself to protect it from violators. To criticize the state thus becomes a blasphemous act.

- (a) The state seeks to present itself as a living being.
- (b) For Karl Marx, capitalism is bad because it does not allow subjectivity to flourish, or because it deifies hierarchy in subjectivities.
- (c) It is therefore not surprising that the transfer of loyalty from religion to nation is almost seamless.
- (d) Man is an individual who holds himself in hand by his intelligence and his will; he exists not merely in a physical fashion.
- (e) The aim and object of society is the growth of the individual and the development of his personality.

Q33. Audiobooks are booming audibly in the mobile age. _____ . And while audiobook unit sales numbers are still small (US traditional publishers sold \$240 million in audiobooks, compared to \$1.8 billion in hardcover books), the format's growth has meant more and more publishers are putting their money in people's ears.

- (a) In audiobooks, readers depend on producers and actors to predigest and interpret content for them.
- (b) And in terms of productivity, listening to books in the gym may not be the best way to learn.
- (c) In many cases, audiobooks have proven successful in helping these students to access literature and enjoy books.
- (d) In the US, growth of audio is stronger than any other format, according to the Association of American Publishers, which tracks revenue from 1,200 book publishers.
- (e) Audiobooks have traditionally been used with second-language learners, learning-disabled students, and struggling readers or nonreaders.

Q34. J-Curve effect refers to a phenomenon wherein the trade balance of a country worsens following the depreciation of its currency before it improves. _____ . However, this may not happen immediately due to some other frictions within the economy. Many importers and exporters in the country, for instance, may be locked into binding agreements that could force them to buy or sell a certain number of goods despite the unfavorable exchange rate of the currency.

- (a) Simultaneously, exports will pick up as they have become more competitive/cheaper in the global market.
- (b) Generally, any depreciation in the value of a currency is expected to improve the economy's overall trade balance by encouraging exports and discouraging imports.
- (c) This will lead to an improvement in trade balance & consequently in Current account deficit.
- (d) While India's exports have become more competitive due to the massive devaluation of the rupee, global growth has also stumbled which will limit the demand for India's exports.
- (e) Standard & Poors', world's largest credit rating agency, has warned that India could lose its investment grade credit rating in the coming months.

Q35. Globally, men participate in the workforce more so than women. _____ . In Australia for example, 39% of the female workforce has experienced harassment compared to just 26% of male. The perpetrators of this harassment ? 79% of the time the perpetrator is male. In the United States, 42% of working women have faced harassment compared to 22% of men.

(a) In 2018, female workforce participation fell below 50% standing at 48.5% and yet male workforce participation is up at 75%.

(b) This report shows how the effects of trauma that Burke is talking about equal actual dollars at the end of the day.

(c) We can see what happens to a brand or a company when a figure head is accused of harassment and how much that costs.

(d) Tarana Burke is speaking about the trauma of sexual violence and harassment that too many people around the world have experienced.

(e) It's undeniable, our world is becoming increasingly more globalized, and with the current educational model, students will not have the skills necessary to navigate the global market.

Directions (36-40): In each of the questions given below a paragraph is given with blank spaces which are numbered. Against each numbered blank space five options are given which may or may not fill the blanks. Choose the option that can fill the blank space appropriately.

On December 18, the Union Ministry of Power issued a seemingly anodyne memo that set the rules for the flow of electricity across South Asian borders. Evaluated against the turbulent politics around the issue, the new guidelines (36) In an atmosphere of regional intrigue and mistrust, it is a rare and recent example of political pragmatism. It is important not only (37) but is also a concession to India's neighbours in an area of political and economic importance. The revision is a response to two years of intense backroom pressure from neighbours, particularly Bhutan and Nepal, to drop trade barriers put up in 2016. The new guidelines meet most of their demands, that were timed to coincide with the recent visit of Bhutan's new Prime Minister. India has thus signalled that (38)..... that should undergird 21st century South Asian regionalism, such as electricity trade. This course correction is a return to a trajectory of incremental, hard-earned progress developed over the decades. Ideas of tying South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries together with cross-border energy flows — that punctuated the early 2000s — (39)..... between India and Bhutan (2006) and Bangladesh (2010). These were driven by India's need for affordable power to fuel quickened growth in a recently liberalised economy. The apotheosis came in 2014 with the signing of the SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation and the India-Nepal Power Trade Agreement in quick succession. The new government in New Delhi was keen on regional cooperation, and these agreements imposed few restrictions on trade. Instead, they laid the contours of an institutional structure that would allow private sector participation and (40)..... At the Fifth SAARC Energy Ministers' meeting that year, Power Minister Piyush Goyal said he dreamt of 'a seamless SAARC power grid within the next few years' and offshore wind projects 'set up in Sri Lanka's coastal borders to power Pakistan or Nepal'. Yet, two years later, the Union Ministry of Power released guidelines that imposed a slew of major restrictions on who could engage in cross-border electricity trade.



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- Q36.** (a) influence in the energy sectors of South Asian neighbours.
(b) reverted anyone other than Indian generators in the neighbouring country,
(c) are a startling departure from India's previous stance.
(d) were scores of privately held companies, particularly in Nepal,
(e) None of the Above

- Q37.** (a) because it leads South Asian electricity trade in progressive directions
(b) access to the vast Indian market, the economic rationale for Nepali hydropower built for export was lost.
(c) to be majority owned by an Indian entity.
(d) fretted about limited access to India's main electricity spot markets
(e) None of the Above

- Q38.** (a) the new guidelines resolve all these issues and restore the governance of electricity trade to a less restrictive tone.
(b) as a stable development partner rather than one inclined to defensive realpolitik.
(c) could be an important instrument in achieving a greener grid.
(d) it is serious about working with neighbours on the issues
(e) None of the Above

- Q39.** (a) began to gain steam with substantial power trade agreements
(b) of this grand vision have unfortunately been disappointing
(c) approved 40 infrastructure and IT projects totaling US\$7.7 billion through SASEC.
(d) led to a prosperous and integrated Asia
(e) None of the Above

- Q40.** (a) a slew of major restrictions on who could engage in cross-border electricity trade.
(b) facilitate market rationality in electricity commerce.
(c) to perceptions of increased Chinese investment and influence in the energy sectors.
(d) partially address its power crisis with imports from Bhutan and Nepal.
(e) None of the Above

Directions (41-45): In each of the questions given below an incomplete sentence is given which must be filled/completed with one of the sentences/words given below. i.e. one of the sentences/words can be fit into the given blanks. Choose the correct option and complete the given sentences. If none of the given alternatives is appropriate to fill the blank, choose option (e) i.e. "none of these" as your answer choice.

- Q41.** After two years of protests from neighbours, the new guidelines resolve all the issues and restore the governance of electricity trade
- (a) to a more severe tone.
(b) to an aimless result.
(c) to a less restrictive tone
(d) to a devastating side.
(e) None of the Above

Q42. The new guidelines are a tentative first step towards the creation of a true regional market in which generators across the subcontinent compete

- (a) to deliver low-cost, green energy to consumers.
- (b) to delivery low-cost, green energy to consumers.
- (c) to deliver high-cost, inefficient energy to consumers.
- (d) to have been delivered low-cost energy to consumers.
- (e) None of the Above

Q43. I'm always a bit uncomfortable with universities jumping into the honorary degrees to stalwarts and legends outside academics.

- (a) denying the fact to glorify
- (b) amaze the people of the group
- (c) the problem of facing issues
- (d) the race of getting glorified by awarding
- (e) None of the Above

Q44. A student who works hard and invests 4/5 years (or more) of his life in the library and laboratory gets the degree from the same dais along with a Bollywood star, and all the limelight

- (a) will invariate that actor who is a public figure.
- (b) will invariably be on that actor who is a public figure.
- (c) will invariably be on that actor which is a public figure.
- (d) will invariably be on those actor who is a public figure.
- (e) None of the Above

Q45. Early this year the government introduced an Electoral Bond Scheme purportedly with a view to clean the prevailing culture of political sponsorship.

- (a) clean the prevail culture of political sponsorship.
- (b) cleans the prevailing culture of political sponsorship.
- (c) have clean the prevailing culture of political sponsorship.
- (d) clean the prevailing culture of political sponsorship
- (e) None of the Above

Directions (46-52): Read the following passage and answer the following questions given below. Some words are given in bold to help you answer some of the questions given below.

Paragraph 1: Think about it: 1.49 billion people on average log onto Facebook daily; every second, on average, around 6,000 tweets are tweeted on Twitter; and since its inception, over 40 billion photographs have been posted on Instagram. We live in a world where we aren't only consumers of information but creators as well, which gives us a misplaced sense of control. It is misplaced because we live today on social media in filter bubbles and echo chambers, and our experiences are dictated by algorithms. As we approach the end of the second decade of this century, social media and the Internet have drifted from their promise of closing distances and exposing us to the views of those who existed beyond our personal networks. Instead, we find ourselves to be more rigid versions of our former selves.

Paragraph 2: In the 1950s, a series of psychological experiments called the Asch Conformity Experiments was carried out by the social psychologist Solomon Asch, to determine the extent to which a person's opinion is influenced by a group. Asch found through a series of trials that an individual was willing to go to the extent of giving a wrong answer just to conform to the majority view. The respondents gave wrong answers either because they did not want to be ridiculed or thought of as "peculiar", or because they believed that the group was better informed than them. Although means of communication and engagement have evolved since the 1950s, the human instinct to fit in hasn't changed. To some extent this also explains the impact of fake news online, which is said to contribute to a polarised society. Fake news is an industry today and finds great resonance with people. Its rise corresponds with a growing distrust in the mainstream media. Fake news has now even slipped into traditional media outlets and is often circulated by prominent individuals. This has contributed to the echo chamber phenomenon. People seek "informed" opinions through filters only from people they trust and look for news that confirms their world view. This results in people cultivating rigid opinions of issues that they would have probably been more willing to discuss in the past. **Social media sites are more than willing to play abettors.** Twitter, for example, will routinely prompt you to follow people who hold a viewpoint that is similar to yours. Social media creates and services, needs which could be the narcissistic impulses encouraged by Instagram or the strengthening of deep-rooted biases on Twitter and Facebook.

Paragraph 3: A study carried out by Aalto University, Finland, this year on increasing polarisation on social media found that factors like user homophily (users in a social system tend to bond more with ones who are similar to them than to ones who are dissimilar) and algorithmic filtering have created this cycle of enforcing and reinforcing belief systems and ensuring that we don't open our minds to diverse opinions. The study suggests that algorithms must be created to identify trigger topics and find diverse opinions that might otherwise be kept out. While the democratisation of discourse that social media has brought about is undeniable and most welcome, we are getting trapped in narrower world views that are seeping into not only voter behaviour but everyday personal interactions. This is something we must be alarmed about. Log in or log out, the world is a far more opinionated place today but it need not be a rigid one.

Q46. According to the author how social media and the Internet were supposed to help people?

- (a) It was expected that internet and social media will increase the proximity among peoples
- (b) Internet and social media were supposed to make people more rigid versions of their former selves.
- (c) They were supposed to expose us to the views of those who existed beyond our personal networks.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q47. Based on the information given in the passage consider a situation where four people are made to sit in a room, they are asked to answer the same question, assuming that three out of four gave the same answer what could be the reason behind the odds that the fourth one will also give the same answer?

- (a) Because the fourth one did not want to be ridiculed
- (b) As the fourth one didn't want anyone to consider his answer as funny or strange
- (c) Because he had a thought in his mind that the other three people are much knowledgeable than him
- (d) All (a) (b) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q48. Why in a today's world of social media we, the consumers and creators of information possess a misplaced sense of control?

- (a) The feeling of autonomy, choosing how one spends one's time, doing one's work in his/her own way nowadays is being influenced by the information that is being shared over social media
- (b) As people's most of the life is being spent over social media and they don't get any time to develop their skills and to learn new things.
- (c) It is misplaced because we live today on social media world where peoples opinion are driven by others experiences and their knowledge.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q49. Out of the followings which option best explains the meaning of the line given in bold as used in the second passage, "Social media sites are more than willing to play abettors."?

- (a) There has been serious instances of data breaches in various social media sites like Facebook, and twitter etc.
- (b) Twitter, for example, will routinely prompt you to follow people who hold a viewpoint that is similar to yours.
- (c) Social media sites are abetting people in regard to a particular political campaign
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q50. How has the Fake news industry contributed to the echo chamber phenomenon?

- (a) Fake news has now even slipped into traditional media outlets and is often circulated by prominent individuals.
- (b) This results in people cultivating rigid opinions of issues that they would have probably been more willing to discuss in the present
- (c) People seek "informed" opinions through filters only from people they don't trust and look for news that confirms their world view.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q51. How the factors like user homophily, increasing polarisation on social media restricts our minds for diverse opinions?

- (a) An individual was willing to go to the extent of giving a wrong answer just to conform to the majority view.
- (b) By changing the means of communication and engagement since the 1950s, the human instinct to fit in hasn't changed.
- (c) Users in a social system tend to gel up more with ones who are similar to them than to ones who are dissimilar and thus following the same path of thinking
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

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Q52. Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning with the highlighted word SEEPING as given in the passage?

- (a) Trickle
- (b) Construe
- (c) Twig
- (d) Encrypt
- (e) Postscript

Directions (53-60): Read the following passage and answer the following questions given below the passage.

Paragraph 1: Superstition is a **credulous** belief or notion, not based on reason, knowledge, or experience. The word is often used pejoratively to refer to folk beliefs deemed irrational. This leads to some superstitions being called "old wives' tales". It is also commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding luck, prophecy and spiritual beings, particularly irrational belief that future events can be influenced or foretold by specific unrelated prior events. While almost any behavior can be turned into a superstitious ritual, perhaps the ones that are most likely to survive are those that happen to be effective at changing how we feel. Although there is no single definition of superstition, it generally means a belief in supernatural forces – such as fate – the desire to influence unpredictable factors and a need to resolve uncertainty. In this way then, individual beliefs and experiences drive superstitions, which explains why they are generally irrational and often defy current scientific wisdom.

Paragraph 2: Psychologists who have investigated what role superstitions play, have found that they derive from the assumption that a connection exists between co-occurring, non-related events. For instance, the notion that charms promote good luck, or protect you from badluck. For many people, engaging with superstitious behaviors provides a sense of control and reduces anxiety – which is why levels of superstition increase at times of stress and **angst**. Superstitious beliefs have been shown to help promote a positive mental attitude. Although they can lead to irrational decisions, such as trusting in the merits of good luck and destiny rather than sound decision making.

Paragraph 3: Carrying charms, wearing certain clothes, visiting places associated with good fortune, preferring specific colors and using particular numbers are all elements of superstition. And although these behaviors and actions can appear trivial, for some people, they can often affect choices made in the real world. Superstitions can also give rise to the notion that objects and places are cursed. Such as the Annabelle the Doll – who featured in The Conjuring and two other movies – and is said to be inhabited by the spirit of a dead girl. A more traditional illustration is the Curse of the Pharaohs, which is said to be cast upon any person who disturbs the mummy of an Ancient Egyptian person – especially a pharaoh. Numbers themselves can also often be associated with curses. For example, the figure 666 in a license plate is often featured in stories of misfortune. The most famous case was the number plate "ARK 666Y", which is believed to have caused mysterious vehicle fires and "bad vibes" for passengers.

Paragraph 4: Where does science fit into this picture? Science is only one of the important parts of our culture. The combined knowledge through generations to generations which helped human beings to survive, prosper, and be on the top of the development is what we mean by systematic and formulated knowledge. We have to examine how science and superstitions affect our daily life and our thinking. Superstition is the irrational way of explaining usual or unusual events. Science does not believe in irrational way of explaining events. Science aims to know the cause and effect of each phenomenon based on scientific principles that can be verified with experiments and are proven on the basis of well-established scientific rules known as laws. Science has rational answers to many of the phenomena.

Q53. Which one of the following comes closest to capturing what the term "pejoratively" means in paragraph 1?

- (a) It is used to refer to the beliefs of folks.
- (b) It is described as the desire to influence unpredictable factors but they ultimately get the certainty of the events that happen in the forthcoming future.
- (c) The author is expressing disapproval and criticism of superstition as they are adjudged irrational using this word.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) All of these.

Q54. What types of behavior are most liable to outlast when turned to superstitious rituals?

- (a) The behavior associated with rational thinking.
- (b) From the behavior impacted in real life due to the events co-occurring in dreams.
- (c) Behaviors with different conditions of life and education.
- (d) The ones which happen to be potent enough at changing the way we feel.
- (e) None of these.

Q55. Why does the author quote that the superstitions confront the scientific wisdom?

- (a) As superstitions are a mystery that even science cannot solve.
- (b) As individual beliefs and experiences drive superstitions which make them irrational.
- (c) As every superstition is linked to an unseen energy and force influenced by some objects or human rituals.
- (d) As superstitions are not necessarily referring to something leading to a bad fate.
- (e) None of these.

Q56. The discussion of superstition in paragraph 1 differs from that in paragraph 4 in which one of the following ways?

- (a) Superstitions can also give rise to the notion that objects and places are cursed and science proves this phenomena.
- (b) Superstitions are applied to beliefs and practices while these practices are different from our culture.
- (c) Superstition is irrational and science does not believe in irrational way of explaining events.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) Both (a) and (b)

Q57. Why do some people prefer to use specific colors or carry talismans?

- (a) To prove the basic principles which are just as much unproved assumptions.
- (b) As they are not inclined to believe in some of the real ideas.
- (c) As science progresses, superstitions ought to grow less.
- (d) As people have the belief that they can affect the choices made in the real world.
- (e) None of these.

Q58. What is the Curse of the Pharaohs known for?

- (a) That when some good things are ready to happen, the curse has an impact that something bad interferes.
- (b) Bring bad luck for the thieves disturbing the outrageous tomb of the Egyptians.
- (c) Casted on the person for disturbing the mummy of an Ancient Egyptian person.
- (d) That it can cause mysterious vehicle fires and bad vibes for passengers with the specific plate number.
- (e) None of these.

Q59. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Credulous

- (a) Suspicious
- (b) Gullible
- (c) Skeptical
- (d) Wary
- (e) Insightful

Q60. Choose the word which is most nearly the OPPOSITE in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Angst

- (a) Apprehension
- (b) Trepidation
- (c) Serenity
- (d) Distress
- (e) Perturbation

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