

*UPSC-CSAT*

**READING COMPREHENSION**



*Marathon*

**Passage 1:** The rural poor across the world, including India, have contributed little to human-induced climate change, yet they are on the frontline in coping with its effects. Farmers can no longer rely on historical averages for rainfall and temperature, and the more frequent and extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, can spell disaster. And there are now threats, such as sea level rise and the impact of melting glaciers on water supply. How significant are small farms? As many as two billion people worldwide depend on them for their food and livelihood. Small-holder farmers in India produce 41 percent of the country's food grains, and other food items that contribute to local and national food security.

**Question 1: What is the most logical and rational corollary to the above passage?**

- (A) Supporting small farmers is an important part of any agenda regarding environmentally substantial development.
- (B) Poor countries have little role to play in the mitigation of global warming.
- (C) Due to a large number of farmer households, India will not have food security problem in the foreseeable future.
- (D) Only small-holder farmers in India can ensure food security.

**Question 2: The above passage implies that:**

- (1) There is a potential problem of food insecurity in India.
- (2) India will have to strengthen its disaster management capabilities.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Passage 2:** Access to schooling for those coming of school age is close to universal, but access to quality exhibits a sharp gradient with socio-economic status. Quotas for the weaker sections in private schools is a provision introduced by the right of Children to free and Compulsory education Act, 2009. The quotas have imposed a debate on issues of social integration and equity in education that private actors had escaped by and large. The idea of egalitarian education system with equality of opportunity as its primary goal appears to be outside the space that private school principals inhibits. Therefore, the imposition of the quotas has led to resistance, sometimes justified.

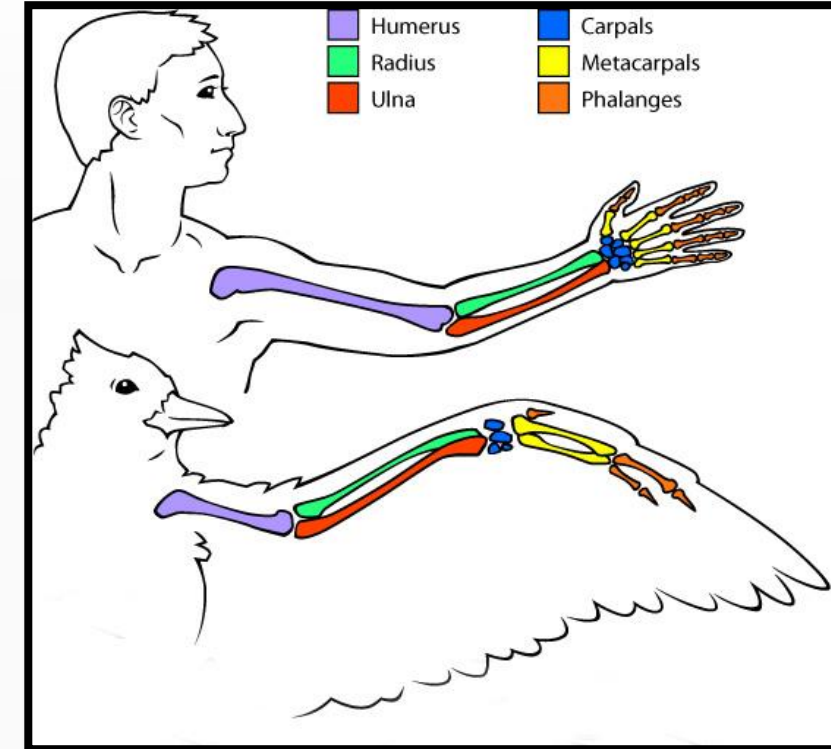
**Question: With reference to the above passage following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Making equality of opportunity a reality is a fundamental goal of the Indian education system.
- (2) The present Indian school system is unable to provide egalitarian education.
- (3) Abolitions of private schools and establishment of more government schools is the only way to ensure egalitarian education.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 2 and 3
- (D) Only 3

**Passage 3:** A bat's wings may look like sheets of skin. But, underneath a bat has the same five fingers as an orangutan or a human, as well as a wrist connected to the same cluster of wrist bones connected to the same long bones of the arm. What can be more curious than that the hand of a man, formed for grasping, that of a mole for digging, the leg of the horse, the paddle of the porpoise, and the wings of the bat, should all be constructed on the same pattern?



**Question: Which of the following is the most logical, scientific and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?**

- (A) Different species having similar structure of hands is an example of biodiversity.
- (B) Limbs being used by different species for different kinds of work is an example of biodiversity.
- (C) Man and aforementioned animals having similar structure of limbs is an example of coincidence in evolution.
- (D) Man and aforementioned animals have a shared evolutionary history.



**Passage 4:** Low-end IoT (Internet of Things) devices are cheap commodity items: addressing security would add to the cost. This class of items is proliferating with new applications; many home appliances, thermostats, security and monitoring devices and personal convenience devices are part of the IoT. So are fitness trackers, certain medical implants and computer-like devices in automobiles. The IoT is expected to expand exponentially - but new security challenges are daunting.

**Question: Which of the following statements is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?**

- (A) Development of enabling technologies in India can be a big boost to its manufacturing sector.
- (B) India is not yet fully ready to adopt IoT in view of the imminent security challenges.
- (C) Life becomes more comfortable with the development of cheap low-end IoT devices.
- (D) As we go digital, we must recognize the huge threat to Internet security from some IoT devices.

**Passage 5:** Climate change may actually benefit some plants by lengthening growing seasons and increasing carbon dioxide. Yet other effects of a warmer world, such as more pests, droughts, and flooding, will be less benign. How will the world adapt? Researchers project that by 2050, suitable croplands for four commodities - maize, potatoes, rice and wheat - will shift, in some cases pushing farmers to plant new crops. Some farmlands may benefit from warming, but others won't. Climate alone does not dictate yields; political shifts, global demand, and agricultural practices will influence how farms fare in the future.

**Question: Which of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?**

- (A) Farmers who modernize their methods and diversify their fields will be in an advantageous position in future.
- (B) Climate change will adversely affect the crop diversity.
- (C) Shifting major crops to new croplands will lead to a great increase in the total area under cultivation and thus an increase in overall agricultural production.
- (D) Climate change is the most important factor affecting the agricultural economy in the future.

**Passage 6:** Inequality is visible, even statistically measurable in many instances, but the economic power that drives it is invisible and not measurable. Like the force of gravity, power is the organizing principle of inequality, be it of income, or wealth, gender, race, religion and region. Its effects are seen in a pervasive manner in all spheres, but the ways in which economic power pulls and tilts visible economic variables remain invisibly obscure.

**Question: On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made.**

- (1) Economic power is the only reason for the existence of inequality in a society.
- (2) Inequality of different kinds, income, wealth, etc. reinforces power.
- (3) Economic power can be analyzed more through its effects than by direct empirical methods.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid ?**

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 3
- (C) Both 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Passage 7:** Soil, in which nearly all our food grows, is a living resource that takes years to form. Yet it can vanish in minutes. Each year 75 billion tones of fertile soil is lost to erosion. That is alarming — and not just for food producers. Soil can trap huge quantities of carbon dioxide in the form of organic carbon and prevent it from escaping into the atmosphere.

**Question: On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made.**

- (1) Large scale soil erosion is a major reason for widespread food insecurity in the world.
- (2) Soil erosion is mainly anthropogenic.
- (3) Sustainable management of soils helps in combating climate change.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid ?**

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 3
- (C) Both 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3



**Passage 8:** Education plays a great transformatory role in life, particularly so in this rapidly changing and globalizing world. Universities are the custodians of the intellectual capital and promoters of culture and specialized knowledge. Culture is an activity of thought, and receptiveness to beauty and human feelings. A merely well informed man is only a bore on God's earth. What we should aim at is producing men who possess both culture and expert knowledge. Their expert knowledge will give them a firm ground to start from and their culture will lead them as deep as philosophy and as high as art. Together it will impart meaning to human existence.

**Question: On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made.**

- (1) Society without well educated people cannot be transformed into a modern society.
- (2) Without acquiring culture, a person's education is not complete.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid ?**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Passage 9:** A changing climate, and the eventual efforts of governments (however reluctant) to deal with it, could have a big impact on investors' returns. Companies that produce or use large amounts of fossil fuels will face higher taxes and regulatory burdens. Some energy producers may find it impossible to exploit their known reserves, and be left with “stranded assets” – deposits of oil and coal that have to be left in the ground. Other industries could be affected by the economic damage caused by more extreme weather – storms, floods, heat waves and droughts.

**Question: On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made.**

- (1) Governments and companies need to be adequately prepared to face the climate change.
- (2) Extreme weather events will reduce the economic growth of governments and companies in future.
- (3) Ignoring climate change is a huge risk for investors.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid ?**

- (A) Only 1 and 2
- (B) Only 3
- (C) Only 1 and 3
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Passage 10:** Political theorists no doubt have to take history of injustice, for example, untouchability, seriously. The concept of historical injustice takes note of a variety of historical wrongs that continue into the present in some form or the other and tend to resist repair. Two reasons might account for resistance to repair. One, not only are the roots of injustice buried deep in history, injustice itself constitutes economic structures of exploitation, ideologies of discrimination and modes of representation.

**Passage 10:** Two, the category of historical injustice generally extends across a number of wrongs such as economic deprivation, social discrimination and lack of recognition. This category is complex, not only because of the overlap between a number of wrongs, but because one or the other wrong, generally discrimination, tends to acquire partial autonomy from others. This is borne out by the history of repair in India.

**Question 1: What is the main idea that we can infer from the passage?**

- (A) Untouchability in India has not been taken seriously by political theorists.
- (B) Historical injustice is inevitable in any society and is always beyond repair.
- (C) Social discrimination and deprivation have their roots in bad economies.
- (D) It is difficult, if not impossible, to repair every manifestation of historical injustice.

**Passage 11:** India has tremendous potential for solar energy. We all realize that we have to stop burning fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. But certain renewable resources are still going through their cost curves and learning curves to get the required amount of output. The Indian Government has strongly committed to its targets of reducing emissions by 33 per cent by 2030, and towards this it has initiated a strong push towards a gas-based economy and has also invested heavily in renewable energy. However, business houses are wary of investing too heavily in renewable energy at a time when the technology is not yet ready.



**Question 1: Which one of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?**

- (A) India's commitment to reduce emissions by 33% is unlikely to be achieved.
- (B) India should import gas rather than invest in renewable resources.
- (C) Getting renewable resources to market too soon may be costly.
- (D) India should put in more efforts in the exploration of natural gas.

**Question 2: With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Governments often provide inefficient and costly subsidies for technologies that may not be ready in the near future.
- (2) India's commitment of reducing emissions by 33% by 2030 shall be on the basis of gas-based economy.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Passage 12:** Our urban bodies cannot possibly ensure sustainable delivery of water in our cities unless financing mechanisms are put in place. Water delivery requires heavy investment in collecting it from a natural source, treating it to make it potable, and laying a distribution network of pipes for delivery to the users. It also requires investments in sewerage infrastructure and sewage treatment plants so that the sewers can carry the waste water to these plants to ensure that no untreated sewage is discharged back into natural water bodies. If our cities were rich enough to meet the entire cost, water could be delivered free. They are not.

**Question: What is the most logical and crucial message conveyed by the passage?**

- (A) Urban local bodies must recover costs through user charges.
- (B) Urban local bodies are not efficient enough to meet the water requirements of our cities.
- (C) Water shortage in our cities is a perennial problem that cannot be solved.
- (D) In view of the water crisis in our cities, there is an urgent need to limit the population of cities by: adopting an upper limit of population size.

**Passage 13:** Genome editing is different from genome modification. Genome editing typically involves finding the part of a plant genome that could be changed to render it less vulnerable to disease, or resistant to certain herbicides, or to increase yields. Researchers use 'molecular scissors' to dissect the genome and repair it, which is a process that occurs naturally when plants are under attack from diseases and can throw up new mutations that enable the plant to survive future attacks. This evolutionary process can effectively be speeded up now that it is possible to examine plant genomes in detail in laboratories, and create mechanisms through which the relevant genes can be altered very precisely.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Genome editing does not require the transfer of genes from one plant to another.
- (2) Through genome editing, the chosen genes can be adhered precisely in a manner akin to the natural process that helps plants to adapt to the environmental factors.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Passage 14:** In Part III of the Constitution, which assures people certain fundamental rights, Article 25 proclaims that "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion". What people fail to notice is that this proclamation is prefixed with the words "subject to public order, morality, health and to the other provisions of this Part", which set conditions precedent for the legal protection of religious practices of any community.

**Passage 14:** The closing words of this prefatory rider in Article 25 virtually constitute a subordination clause placing other fundamental rights mentioned in Part III over and above the right to religious freedom. Among those other fundamental rights is the right to equality before law and equal protection of laws assured at the outset and elaborated in later articles to mean, inter alia, that the State shall not deny equal protection of laws to any person or group of persons on the basis of religion alone.



**Question: What is the most logical inference from the above passage?**

- (A) State shall not interfere with the religious affairs of the citizens.
- (B) Religious freedom under the Constitution is open to State intervention.
- (C) Religious freedom of the citizens is not covered under fundamental rights.
- (D) Religious practices of any community are immune to State laws.

**Passage 15:** People will invest in education whenever they are granted the economic freedom to fully enjoy its benefits. Again, this is for the obvious reason that the return on education increases as the level of economic freedom rises. When people, thanks to lower tax rates, are allowed to retain most of the higher income that they gain from each incremental level of education, it makes eminent sense to invest in education. On the other hand, when the government decides to tax the higher income of educated individuals at even higher rates, it makes very little sense to invest in educating oneself further. The same incentives apply to parents who decide on whether to invest in their children's education.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made :**

- (1) Lower tax rates in a country invariably translate into greater investments in higher education.
- (2) Investment in the education of children ensures their economic freedom.
- (3) Economic freedom has a positive impact on building up human capital.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**Passage 16:** Spanish ships in the late 16th century first brought the potato tuber from South America to Europe whereby in the early 19th century, it had become a reliable backup to cereal crops, particularly in the cold, rain-soaked soils of Ireland. The Irish were soon almost wholly dependent on the potato as their staple food. and they were planting primarily one prodigious variety, the Lumper' potato, whose genetic frailty would be cruelly exposed by the fungus 'Phytophthora infestans'. In 1845, spores of the deadly fungus began spreading across the country, destroying nearly all the Lumpers in its path. The resulting famine killed displaced millions.



**Which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message of the passage?**

- (A) For introducing any foreign plant into a country, the soil and climate conditions of that country should be suitable.
- (B) As a staple food of a country, tuber crops like potato cannot replace cereal crops.
- (C) Some of the fungal infections of plants cannot be prevented or stopped from spreading across large areas.
- (D) Relying on a homogeneous food source is not desirable.

**Passage 17:** What stands in the way of the widespread and careful adoption of ‘Genetic Modification (GM)’ technology is an ‘Intellectual Property Rights’ regime that seeks to create private monopolies for such technologies. If GM technology is largely corporate driven, it seeks to maximize profits and that too in the short run. That’s why corporations make major investments for herbicide-tolerant and pest-resistant crops. Such properties have only a short window, as soon enough, pests and weeds will evolve to overcome such resistance. This suits the corporations. The National Commission pointed out that priority must be given in genetic modification to the incorporation of genes that can help impart resistance to drought, salinity and other stresses.

**Question 1: Which one of the following is the most logical, rational, and crucial message conveyed by the above passage?**

- (A) Public research institutions should take the lead in GM technology and prioritize the technological agenda.
- (B) Developing countries should raise this issue in WTO and ensure the abolition of Intellectual Property Rights.
- (C) Private corporations should not be allowed to do agribusiness in India, particularly the seed business.
- (D) Present Indian circumstances do not favour the cultivation of genetically modified crops.

**Question 2: On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (A) The issue of effects of natural calamities on agriculture is not given due consideration by GM technology companies.
- (B) In the long run, GM technology will not be able to solve agriculture problems arising due to global warming.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Passage 18:** Private investment in general is volatile. Foreign private investment is more volatile because the available investment avenues are significantly greater (i.e., the entire world). Therefore, the responsibility of providing employment cannot be left to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The current FDI inflows are volatile over time and across sectors and regions, which is a necessary consequence of their search for the highest returns....

**Passage 18:** The adverse consequences are unstable employment and an accentuation of income and regional inequalities. A probable positive consequence of foreign investment is the inflow of new technology and its subsequent diffusion. However, the technology diffusion is not at all certain because the existing state of physical and human capital in India may prove inadequate for the diffusion.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Relying on foreign investment in the long run is not an economically sound policy.
- (2) Policies must be undertaken to reduce volatility in foreign private investment.
- (3) Policies must be undertaken to strengthen domestic private investment.
- (4) Public investment should be given priority over private investment.
- (5) Substantial public investment in education and health should be undertaken.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

(A) 1, 2 and 4

(B) 1, 3 and 5

(C) 2, 4 and 5

(D) 3 only

**Passage 19:** Many people understand the connection between solid waste management and health in terms of the consequences of unattended heaps of dry garbage which become home for flies and other vermin. However, there is another aspect that is not well-understood, that is, what happens when unscientific solid waste management combines with poor drainage and dumping of untreated sewage into drains which are meant to carry storm water during rains. The result is choked drains which are full of stagnant water breeding mosquitoes, resulting in the spread of water-borne diseases.

**Question: In the context of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the critical message of the passage?**

- (A) In India, the drainage networks are not separate for sewerage and storm water.
- (B) Urban local bodies do not have enough resources and legislative authority to deal with the problems of waste management.
- (C) Solid waste management should be integrated with the maintenance of drainage and sewerage networks.
- (D) Bad management of solid waste and sewerage systems by our municipalities is the reason for drinking water shortages in our cities.

**Passage 20:** Bank credit to the industrial sector has started shrinking. Its decline has been a serious concern as credit growth is essential to revive investment. The problem's origins lie in the incomplete reforms of the last 25 years. An institutional change that should have followed the 1991 reforms should have been setting up of a resolution corporation for banks. In a market economy with booms and busts, banks should be allowed to be set up and to fail. Today, we cannot shut down banks because there is no proper system to shut them down. Weak loss-making banks continue to need more capital.

**Question: Which one of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?**

- (A) Indian banking system is not able to help the country in its economic growth.
- (B) Economic reforms that started in 1991 have not helped in improving the economy to expected levels.
- (C) India lacks the institutional mechanism to deal with the failure of banks.
- (D) Encouraging the foreign investments in our industrial sector is a good alternative to this sector's dependence on banks for credit.



**Passage 21:** In the contemporary era, computers have become an indispensable part of our daily lives, revolutionizing the way we work, communicate, and access information. However, like any technological advancement, computers come with their fair share of demerits. While the benefits of computers are undeniable, it is crucial to critically examine the drawbacks associated with their widespread use. One of the significant demerits of computers is the growing dependency and overreliance on them in various aspects of life. Extended use of computers is associated with a range of health concerns....

**Passage 21:** Prolonged exposure to computer screens can lead to eye strain, headaches, and blurred vision, collectively known as Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS). The increased connectivity facilitated by computers has given rise to significant privacy and security concerns. While computers have enhanced communication by providing platforms for online interaction, there is a paradoxical effect that contributes to social isolation. The production, usage, and disposal of computers contribute to environmental degradation.

**Question: Based on the above passage following assumptions have been made, which among the following is the most logical and rational assumption from the options given below:**

- (A) Computers have contributed a lot to most of our life problems.
- (B) Computer have more demerits than its merits in today's world.
- (C) Excessive use of computers have made the children's life very lethargic.
- (D) The advantages of computers are undeniable but this cannot obliterate the demerits of computers.

**Passage 22:** Many opportunities to harness the highly skewed, seasonal and spatial distribution of monsoon flows, which occur in a four-month period from June to September annually, have been lost. Since these few months account for most of the rainfall and consequent freshwater availability, the need for holding rainwater in reservoirs, for subsequently releasing it for use over the year, is a necessity nobody can afford to overlook. Climate change will continue to affect weather conditions and create water shortages and excesses. While millions suffer from droughts and floods, waters in the country's many rivers flow unutilized, and are discharged into the sea every year.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, which of the following could be the most rational and practical implications for India?**

- (1) Inter-linking of rivers should be undertaken.
- (2) A network of dams and canals should be built across the country for proper distribution of water.
- (3) Farmers should be provided easy loans for digging borewells.
- (4) Usage of water for agriculture should be regulated by law.
- (5) Distribution of river water among regions should be regulated by the Union Government.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

(A) 1 and 2

(B) 2, 4 and 5

(C) 1, 3 and 4

(D) 2, 3 and 5

**Passage 23:** In India, the current focus on the right to privacy is based on some new realities of the digital age. A right is a substantive right only if it works in all situations, and for everyone. A right to free expression for an individual about her exploitation, for instance, is meaningless without actual availability of security that guarantees that private force cannot be used to thwart this right. The role of the State, therefore, is not just to abstain from preventing rightful free expression, but also to actively ensure that private parties are not able to block it.

**On the basis of the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) State should have some institutions to ensure its appropriate role in a digital society.
- (2) States should ensure that private parties do not violate the citizens' right to privacy.
- (3) Digital economy is not compatible with the idea of not violating the citizens' privacy.

**Which of the above assumption is/are valid?**

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) Only 3
- (C) 1 and 3
- (D) Only 2



**Passage 24:** India is at once among the fastest growing global economies and home to the largest number of malnourished children in the world. There are regions where malnutrition is not the exception but the norm. And across the country, malnutrition is the cause of death for roughly half the 1.3 million children who die before their fifth birthday each year. Even those children who survive suffer permanently from the damage that has already been done to their bodies and minds from not getting enough of the right foods and nutrients. Around 44 million children under 5 are stunted. That makes it harder for them to learn in school and subsequently earn a living as adults. Their lifetime earnings potential is almost a quarter less than that of their healthy peers.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, which of the following is/are the most rational and practical implication(s)?**

1. India's Public Distribution System should be monitored by the Union Government.
2. Girls should be encouraged to delay marriage and first pregnancy.
3. Mothers should be encouraged to breastfeed their children immediately after birth.
4. The supply of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities to all should be ensured.
5. Authorities should ensure the vaccination as prescribed.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below;**

- (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (C) Only 1
- (D) 3 and 5

**Passage 25:** Although most of the Genetically Modified (GM) crops cultivated now are genetically engineered for a single trait, in future, crops genetically engineered for more than one trait will be the norm. Thus, biotechnology's role in agriculture and the regulation of the same cannot be understood solely in the context of the current generation of GM crops. Instead, there is a need to take a comprehensive look, taking into account various aspects, including socio-economic impacts, so that the potential of the technology can be harnessed while minimizing negative impacts.

**Passage 25:** Given the importance of biotechnology in developing varieties that can help in climate change mitigation and adaptation, not using biotechnology as a part of the climate change action plan cannot be an option. Domestic regulation of biotechnology cannot be viewed in isolation of trade policy and obligations under various international treaties and conventions.

**Question: With reference to the above passage, following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Biotechnology regulation is an evolving process.
- (2) Participation of people is needed in policy decisions regarding biotechnology regulation.
- (3) Biotechnology regulation should take into account socio-economic aspects in decision-making.
- (4) Wider involvement of political executive in biotechnology regulation improves its effectiveness in dealing with the country's trade policies and international obligations.

**Which of the above assumptions are valid?**

- (A) Only 1, 2 and 4
- (B) Only 1 and 3
- (C) Only 2, 3 and 4
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Passage 26:** Asset allocation is the most important investment decision we will ever make, and sadly, most of us do not give that decision the importance it deserves. We are adamant about seeking predictability with our future. We tend to think of investing in risky assets as extremely volatile and value eroding. We also dislike fluctuating returns and the loss of control of investment. We think our money is best left idle, unproductive but safe. There is no asset that is risk-free. We could lose our jobs, our homes can lose value, our banks can go bankrupt, our bonds can default, the government can collapse and companies we chose fondly may cease to exist. But we cannot live life assuming that all these extreme events are waiting to happen, and all at the same time. All these extreme forms of risks we know will not manifest at the same time.



**Question: Which one of the following statements best implies the suggestion given by the author of the passage?**

- (A) Distribute your wealth across different kinds of assets so that your risks would be minimized.
- (B) Risk-taking behaviour should be a necessary component of your personality if you want to generate wealth.
- (C) While making investments, find a trustworthy asset management organization which would manage your wealth for you.
- (D) You should know that investing your money is a risky business.

**Passage 27:** Approximately 80 percent of all flowering plant species are pollinated by animals, including birds and mammals, but the main pollinators are insects. Pollination is responsible for providing us with a wide variety of food, as well as many plant-derived medicines. At least one-third of the world's agricultural crops depend upon pollination. Bees are the most dominant taxa when it comes to pollination and they are crucial to more than four hundred crops. In India, the current focus on the right to privacy is based on some new realities of the digital age. A right is a substantive right only if it works in all situations, and for everyone.

**Question: On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:**

- (1) Sustainable production of India's cereal food grains is impossible without the diversity of pollinating animals.
- (2) Monoculture of horticultural crops hampers the survival of insects.
- (3) Pollinators become scarce in cultivated areas devoid of natural vegetation.
- (4) Diversity in insects induces diversity of plants.

**Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2, 3 and 4
- (C) Only 1 and 2
- (D) Only 3 and 4

**Passage 28:** An air quality index (AQI) is a way to combine measurements of multiple air pollutants into a single number of rating. This index is ideally kept constantly updated and available in different places. The AQI is most useful when lots of pollution data is being gathered and when pollution levels are normally, but not always low. In such cases if pollution levels spike for a few days, the public can quickly take preventive action (like staying indoors) in response to an air quality warning. Unfortunately, that is not in urban India. Pollution levels in many large Indian cities are so high that they remain well above any health or regulatory standard for large part of the year. If our index stays in the Red/Dangerous region day after day, there is not much any one can do, other than getting used to ignoring it.

**Question: Which among the following statements is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage given above?**

- (A) Our governments are not responsible enough to keep our cities pollution free.
- (B) There is absolutely no need for air quality indices in our country.
- (C) Air quality index is not helpful to the residents of many of our large cities.
- (D) In every city, public awareness about pollution problems should increase.

**Passage 29:** At the heart of agroecology is the idea that agroecosystems should mimic the biodiversity levels and functioning of natural ecosystem. Such agriculture mimics, like their natural models, can be productive, pest-resistant, nutrient conserving, and resilient to shocks and stresses. In ecosystems there is no ‘waste’, nutrients are recycled indefinitely. Agroecology aims at closing nutrient loops, i.e., returning all nutrients that come out of the soil back to the soil such as through application of farmyard manure. It also harnesses natural processes to control pests and build soil fertility i.e., through intercropping. Agroecology practices include integrating trees with livestock and crops.

**Question: Consider the following:**

- 1) Cover Crops
- 2) Fertigation
- 3) Hydroponics
- 4) Mixed Farming
- 5) Polyculture
- 6) Vertical Farming

**Which of the among farming practices can be compatible with agroecology, as implied by the passage?**

- (A) Only 1, 4 and 5
- (B) Only 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (C) Only 1, 2, 3 and 6
- (D) Only 4 and 6



# ADVANTAGES OF COVER CROPPING

Building  
soil health



Nutrient  
retention



Erosion  
control



Weed  
reduction



## COVER CROPPING



**FERTIGATION**



**HYDROPONICS**



**MIXED FARMING**



**POLY CULTURE**



## VERTICAL FARMING

**Passage 30:** A study conducted on the impacts of climate change over the Cauvery basin of Tamil Nadu using regional climate models showed an increasing trend for maximum and minimum temperatures, and a decrease in the number of rainy days. These climatic shifts will have an impact on the hydrological cycles in the region, lead to more run-off and less recharge, and affect the groundwater tables. Further, there has been an increase in the frequency of droughts in the state. This has driven farmers to increase dependency on groundwater resources to secure their crops.

**Question: Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage given above?**

- (A) Development of regional climate models helps in choosing climate-smart agricultural practices.
- (B) Heavy dependence on groundwater resources can be reduced by adopting dry-land cropping systems.
- (C) Climate changing increase the criticality of water resources while simultaneously threatening it.
- (D) Climate changes cause the farmers to adopt unsustainable livelihood and risky coping strategies.

**Passage 31:** If presents bring less thrill now that we are grown up, perhaps it is because we have too much already; or perhaps it is because we have lost the fullness of the joy of receiving. Children's fears are poignant, their miseries are acute, but they do not look too forward nor too far backwards. Their joys are clear and complete, because they have not yet learnt always to add 'but' to every proposition. Perhaps we are too cautious, too anxious, too sceptical. Perhaps some of our cares would shrink if we thought less about them and entered with more single-minded enjoyment into the happiness that come our way.

**Question: With reference to the passage, which one of the following statements is correct?**

- (A) It is not possible for the adults to feel thrilled by presents.
- (B) There can be more than one reason why adults feel less thrilled by presents.
- (C) The author doesn't know why adults feel less thrilled by parents.
- (D) Adults have less capacity to feel the joy of loving or being loved.

**Passage-32:** “In simple matters like shoe-making, we think only a specially trained person will serve our purpose, but in politics, we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a state. When we are ill, we call for a trained physician, or the most eloquent one : well then, when the whole state is ill should we not look for the service and guidance of the wisest and the best?”



**Question: Which one of the following statements best reflects the message of the author of the passage?**

(A) We assume that in a democracy, any politician is qualified to administer a State.

(B) Politicians should be selected from those trained in administration.

(C) We need to devise a method of barring incompetence from public office.

(D) As voters select their administrators, the eligibility of politicians to administer a State cannot be questioned.

**Passage 33:** We all have grown up with the cliché that India is an epitome of “unity in diversity”. To appreciate its real meaning, you need to delve deeper and understand that remaining united and strong despite the mind-boggling diversity found here in languages, foods, traditions and customs, is no mean feat. It is creditable that the Constitution-makers’ vision has, indeed, fructified. Undeniably, the nation has faced many threats to its integrity post-independence, like others did, but its broad national fabric has survived and remained intact.

**Passage 33:** To understand the real import of this achievement, you just need to look at your neighboring Pakistan, which has been deprived of any true democracy or civil liberties for more than seven decades now. Our detractors need to remember that the tempestuous political circumstances and the mayhem amidst which India got independence could have meant the birth of more than 650 tiny nations, a potential threat to India but for Sardar VB Patel's sagacity and firm approach, which ensured it didn't happen and helped create a strong nation.

**Question 1: India's remaining united is a much more creditable feat as:**

- (A) It is a perfect example of unity in diversity
- (B) The Constitution-makers' vision has fructified
- (C) It has happened despite there being so many differences in terms of cultural aspects and threats to its integrity
- (D) Sardar VB Patel's approach helped create a strong nation

**Question 2: In brief, the author would like to drive home the point that**

- (A) The phrase “unity in diversity” applied to India isn’t a hollow claim
- (B) India has done much better in terms of preserving its unity as compared to other countries.
- (C) India has faced many threats to its integrity after independence.
- (D) Sardar VB Patel needs to be given credit for unifying India as a nation

**Passage 34:** For two or three generations past, ever-increasing number of individuals have been living as workers merely, not as human beings. An excessive amount of labour is rule today in every circle of society, with the result that man's spiritual element cannot thrive. He finds it difficult to spend his little leisure in serious activities. He does not want to think; or he cannot even if he wants to. He seeks not self-improvement but entertainment which would enable him to be mentally idle and to forget his usual activities. Therefore, the so-called culture of our age is dependant more on cinema than on theatre, more on newspapers, magazines and crime stories than on serious literature.

**Question 1: The passage is based on the idea that**

- (A) Man should not work hard
- (B) The great evil of our age is overstrain
- (C) Man cannot think well
- (D) Man cannot care for his spiritual welfare

**Question 2: Man doesn't seek self-improvement because he**

- (A) Is not intellectually capable
- (B) Has no time to do so
- (C) Is distracted by materialism
- (D) Loves amusement and is mentally idle

**Passage 35:** “The last end of the state is not to dominate men, nor to restrain them by fear; rather it is so to free each man from fear that he may live and act with full security and without injury to himself or his neighbour. The end of the state, I repeat, is not to make rational beings into brute beasts and machines. It is to enable their bodies and their minds to function safely. It is to lead men to live by, and to exercise, a free reason; that they may not waste their strength in hatred, anger and guile, nor act unfairly toward one another.”



**Question: Based on the above passage, which one of the following terms best expresses the ultimate goal of the state?**

- (A) Personal safety
- (B) Health of body and mind
- (C) Communal harmony
- (D) Liberty

**Passage 36:** In India, a majority of farmers are marginal and small, less educated and possess low adaptive capabilities to climate change, perhaps because of credit and other constraints. So one cannot expect autonomous adaptation to climate change. Even if it was possible, it would not be sufficient to offset losses from climate change. To deal with this, adaptation to climate change is paramount, alongside a fast mitigation response. Another solution is to have a planned or policy-driven adaptation, which would require the government to come up with policy recommendations. Perception is a necessary prerequisite for adaptation. Whether farmers are adapting agricultural practices to climate change depends on whether they perceive it or not. However, this is not always enough for adaptation. It is important how a farmer perceives the risks associated with climate change.

**Question: Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational message conveyed by the author of the passage?**

- (A) Adaption to climate change and mitigation response are basically the responsibilities of the government.
- (B) Climate change causes a change in government policies regarding land use patterns in the country.
- (C) Risk perception of farmers are important for motivating them for taking adaptation decisions.
- (D) Since mitigation is not possible, governments should come up with policies for quick response to climate change.

**Passage 37:** With respect to what are called denominations of religion, if everyone is left to be a judge of his own religion, there is no such thing as religion that is wrong; but if they are to be a judge of each other's religion, there is no such thing as a religion that is right, and therefore all the world is right or all the world is wrong in the matter of religion.

**Question: What is the most logical assumption that can be made from the passage given above?**

- (A) No man can live without adhering to some religious denomination.
- (B) It is the duty of everyone to propagate one's religious denomination.
- (C) Religious denominations tend to ignore the unity of man.
- (D) Men do not understand their own religious denomination.

**Passage 38:** A number of empirical studies find that farmers are risk-averse, though only moderately in many cases. There is also evidence to show that farmers' risk aversion results in cropping patterns and input used to designed to reduce risk rather than to maximize income. Farmers adopt a number of strategies to manage and cope with agricultural risks. These include practises like crop and field diversification, non-farm employment, storage of stocks and strategic migration of family members. There are also institutions ranging from share tenancy to kinship, extended family and informal credit agencies. One major obstacle to risk sharing by farmers is that the same type of risks can affect a large number of farmers in the region.

**Passage 38:** Empirical studies show that the traditional methods are not adequate. Hence, there is a need for policy interventions, especially measures that cut across geographical regions. Policies may aim at tackling agricultural risks directly or indirectly. Examples of risk-specific policies are crop insurance, price stabilization and the development of various resistant to pests and diseases. Policies which affect risks indirectly are irrigation, subsidized credit and access to information. No single risk-specific policy is sufficient to reduce risk and is without side-effects, whereas policies not specific to risk influence the general situation and affect risks only indirectly.

**Passage 38:** Crop insurance, as a policy measure to tackle agricultural risk directly, deserves careful consideration in the Indian context and in many other developing countries- because the majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture and in many areas yield variability is the predominant cause of their income instability.



**Question 1: The need for policy intervention to mitigate risks in agriculture is because;**

- (1) Farmers are extremely risk-averse.
- (2) Farmers do not know how to mitigate risks.
- (3) The methods adopted by farmers existing risk sharing institutions are not adequate.
- (4) Majority of farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture.

**Select the correct answer, using the code given below;**

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Both 3 and 4

**Question 2: Which of the following observations emerge from the above passage?**

- (A) One can identify a single policy that can reduce risk without any side-effect.
- (B) No single risk-specific policy is sufficient to reduce agricultural risk.
- (C) Policies which affect risk indirectly can eliminate it.
- (D) Government's policy intervention can mitigate agricultural risk completely.

**Passage 39:** Good cooperate governance structures encourage companies to provide accountability and control. A fundamental reason why corporate governance has moved onto the economic and political agenda worldwide has been the rapid growth in international capital markets. Effective corporate governance enhances access to external financing by firms, leading to greater investments, higher growth and employment. Investors look to place their funds where the standards of disclosure, of timely and accurate financial reporting, and of equal treatment to all stakeholders are met.



**Question: Which one of the following statements best reflects the logical inference from the passage given above?**

- (A) It is an important agenda of the countries around the world to ensure access to good internal financing.
- (B) Good corporate governance improves the credibility of the firms.
- (C) International capital markets ensure that the firm maintain good corporate governance.
- (D) Good corporate governance paves the ways for robust supply chains.

**Passage 40:** Elephants are landscape architects, creating clearings in the forest, preventing overgrowth of plant species and allowing space for regeneration of others, which in turn provide sustenance to other herbivorous animals. Elephants eat plants, fruits and seeds when they defecate in other places as they travel. Elephant dung provides nourishment to plants and animals and acts as a breeding ground for insects. In times of drought, they access water by digging holes which benefits other wildlife.

**Question: Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be drawn from the passage?**

(A) The home range of elephants needs to be a vast area of rich biodiversity.

(B) Elephants are the keystone species and they benefit the biodiversity.

(C) Rich biodiversity cannot be maintained in the forests without the presence of elephants.

(D) Elephants are capable of regenerating forests with species as per their requirement.

# THANKS FOR WATCHING