

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 1-3) *Below each of the following words (in capital letters) four words are given. Pick out the word that is nearest in meaning to the words given in the capital letters.*

**1. MENDACIOUS**

- (a) Bounteous (b) Preemptive  
(c) Albion (d) Perfidious

**2. BROBDINGNAGIAN**

- (a) Colossal (b) Laconic  
(c) Succinct (d) None of these

**3. PUSILLANIMOUS**

- (a) Plucky (b) Tremulous  
(c) Spunky (d) Gallant

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 4 and 5) *Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the expression in bold.*

**4. Fall flat**

- (a) To fail to stand  
(b) To fail to maintain  
(c) To fail to produce intended effect  
(d) To fail to realise

**5. She tried to slip out but was caught immediately.**

- (a) Steal (b) Leave quietly  
(c) Go quickly (d) Slight quickly

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 6-8) *Out of the options given, find out the most similar in meaning for the given word.*

**6. Rostrum**

- (a) Dais (b) Mould  
(c) Decompose (d) Revolve

**7. Homespun**

- (a) Nominal (b) Titular  
(c) uniform (d) unrefined

**8. Fester**

- (a) Feast (b) Carnival  
(c) Decay (d) Jollity

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 9 and 10) *Fill in the blank with the appropriate option.*

**9. I know all about that film because I \_\_\_\_\_ it twice.**

- (a) saw (b) seen  
(c) had seen (d) have seen

**10. It started to rain while we \_\_\_\_\_ tennis.**

- (a) are playing (b) were playing  
(c) had played (d) have been playing

**11. Give the synonym of Angst**

- (a) Dread (b) Ban  
(c) Authorize (d) Calm

**12. Give the synonym of 'perseverance'**

- (a) Determination  
(b) Negative  
(c) Clear  
(d) Regressive

13. Give the synonym of 'retrograde'.

- (a) Positive
- (b) Downhill
- (c) Seemly
- (d) Disreputable

14. Antonym of 'abrasive' is

- (a) Begin
- (b) Care
- (c) Kind
- (d) Bear

15. Antonym of 'pandemonium' is

- (a) Silence
- (b) Nuisance
- (c) Emerge
- (d) Educate

16. Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the expression in bold.

**They got on well** with each other the moment they met.

- (a) Had a friendly relationship
- (b) Held an agreement
- (c) Had a misunderstanding
- (d) Fell in love

17. Antonym of 'reluctance' is

- (a) Remove
- (b) Polite
- (c) Willingness
- (d) Rapid

18. Give the synonym of 'intransigent'

- (a) Outdated
- (b) Anxiety
- (c) Unbending
- (d) Compliant

19. Give the synonym of 'rebut'

- (a) Confirm
- (b) Disprove
- (c) Intentional
- (d) Conscious

**Directions (Q. Nos. 20-21) Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the underlined expression.**

20. Sachin has had a good innings in cricket.

- (a) Fine experience
- (b) Ultimate success
- (c) Long and successful spell
- (d) Victorious win

21. He left the town under a cloud.

- (a) Of his one accord
- (b) With a heavy heart
- (c) When it was raining
- (d) In disgrace

22. The world's highest plateau is

- (a) Bolivian
- (b) Tibetan
- (c) Deccan
- (d) Canadian

23. Choose the right word to complete the sentence.

Thirty kilometres ... a big distance.

- (a) is
- (b) are
- (c) was
- (d) were

24. Choose the correct word opposite in meaning to the word 'hesitancy'

- (a) Gird
- (b) Certainty
- (c) Stout
- (d) Band

25. Give the antonym of 'innocuous'.

- (a) Marred
- (b) Immortal
- (c) Harmful
- (d) Pious

26. Antonym of 'fragility' is

- (a) Robustness
- (b) Raise
- (c) Relax
- (d) Peace

27. The abbreviation BRICS stands for

- (a) Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa
- (b) Britain-Russia-India-China-South Africa
- (c) Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Korea
- (d) Bangladesh-Russia-India-China-South Africa

28. Parakram Diwas is observed to celebrate the birth anniversary of

- (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (b) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- (c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- (d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

29. In the study of pollution, SPM refers to

- (a) Suspended Particulate Matter
- (b) Solid Particulate Matter
- (c) Sulphur Particulate Matter
- (d) Sulphur Phosphorus Matter

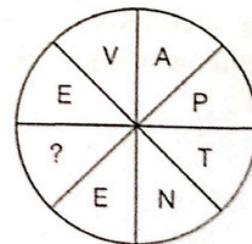
30. Where is CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute situated?

- (a) Nagpur
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Kolkata

31. Hollywood is located in

- (a) London
- (b) Paris
- (c) California
- (d) Florida

32. Insert the missing letter.



- (a) O
- (b) N
- (c) M
- (d) Q

33. Which of the following won "Oscar Award 2020" for best film?

- (a) Gully Boy
- (b) Parasite
- (c) Joker
- (d) Avenger

- 34.** The capital of Somalia is  
 (a) Ankara (b) Juba  
 (c) Mogadishu (d) Ulan Bator
- 35.** Finland is known as  
 (a) Land of Midnight Sun  
 (b) Land of Golden Fleece  
 (c) Land of Thunderbolt  
 (d) Land of Thousand Lakes
- 36.** In banking system the abbreviation SWIFT stands for  
 (a) Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Transformations  
 (b) Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunications  
 (c) Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications  
 (d) Society of World Interbank Financial Telecommunications
- 37.** NASA refers to  
 (a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
 (b) National Airborne and Space Agency  
 (c) Northern Airborne and Space Agency  
 (d) North Atlantic Space Agency
- 38.** There are five persons A, B, C, D and E in a row. B is to the right of C and A is to the left of D and right of B, C is to the right of E. Who is in the middle?  
 (a) B (b) C (c) D (d) E
- 39.** How many times do the hands of a clock make a right angle with each other during 24 h?  
 (a) 22 (b) 24  
 (c) 44 (d) 48
- 40.** Find the odd one among the following:  
 (a) Success – Failure (b) Gain – Profit  
 (c) Spend – Earn (d) Win – Lose
- 41.** Insert the missing number.
- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 18 | 25 | 4 |
| 16 | 20 | 3 |
| 6  | 15 | ? |
- (a) 20 (b) 16 (c) 4 (d) 3
- 42.** Which country won the Cricket World Cup in 1983?  
 (a) India (b) Pakistan  
 (c) West Indies (d) England
- 43.** The author of the book "Home in the World" is  
 (a) Amartya Sen (b) Amitav Ghosh  
 (c) Kaushik Basu (d) Ruskin Bond
- 44.** Who was the captain of Indian Women's Hockey team for Tokyo Olympics 2020?  
 (a) Lalremsiami  
 (b) Savita Punia  
 (c) Rani Rampal  
 (d) Deep Grace Ekka
- 45.** What is the rank of India in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021?  
 (a) 130 (b) 132  
 (c) 134 (d) 135
- 46.** What is the time of the mirror image of a clock when the original time is 8 min past 12?  
 (a) 11 : 52 (b) 10 : 54  
 (c) 11 : 25 (d) 6 : 52
- 47.** At what angle the hands of a clock are inclined at 15 minute past 6?  
 (a)  $97\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  (b)  $90^\circ$   
 (c)  $95^\circ$  (d)  $97^\circ$
- 48.** R and K are good in Football and Cricket. S and R are good in Football and Golf. G and K are good in Volleyball and Cricket. S, G and M are good in Tennis and Golf. Who is good in Football, Volleyball and Cricket?  
 (a) G (b) R  
 (c) K (d) S
- 49.** There are six persons A, B, C, D, E and F in a circle. C is facing to D. D is to the right of B and left of E. E is to the left of A. F is to the right of C. If A exchanges his position with F and B with D, then who is to the left of A?  
 (a) B (b) C  
 (c) A (d) F
- 50.** Find the missing term  
 KPA, LQB, MRC, NSD, ?  
 (a) PSE (b) PTE  
 (c) OTE (d) OSE
- 51.** Find the missing term  
 PON, RQP, TSR, VUT, ?  
 (a) WXV (b) XWV  
 (c) XWU (d) XWZ
- 52.** Find the missing number.  
 4, 5, 8, 13, 20, ?  
 (a) 29 (b) 27  
 (c) 28 (d) 30
- 53.** 'Pitch' is related to 'Cricket', in same way 'Court' is related to  
 (a) Tennis (b) Race  
 (c) Boeing (d) Football

54. Select the correct combination of mathematical signs to replace \* signs and to balance the following equations.

$$16 * 6 * 25 * 36 * 2 = -116$$

- (a) -, ×, +, +                      (b) +, -, ×, +  
 (c) +, ×, ÷, -                      (d) -, +, +, ×

55. Which two signs should be interchanged in the following equation to make it correct?

$$28 - 32 \div 2 + 286 \times 26 = -25$$

- (a) + and -                              (b) × and +  
 (c) + and ×                              (d) + and +

56. It takes 3 days for Mr. X to go from place A to place B. On the first day he travelled 30% of the entire distance, on the second day 60% of the remaining distance. After the first two days it remains for Mr. X to travel by 5 km less than the distance he covered during the first day.

What is the distance between A and B?

- (a) 200 km                              (b) 150 km  
 (c) 250 km                              (d) 300 km

57. Salim saves 14% of his salary while Manjur saves 22%. If both get the same salary and Manjur saves ₹ 1540, then the savings and salary of Salim are

- (a) ₹ 980, ₹ 5000                      (b) ₹ 980, ₹ 6000  
 (c) ₹ 980, ₹ 7000                      (d) ₹ 980, ₹ 8000

58. Due to fall in rate of interest from 12% to 10.5% per annum simple interest a money lender's income diminishes by ₹ 900. Find the capital.

- (a) ₹ 40000                              (b) ₹ 45000  
 (c) ₹ 55000                              (d) ₹ 60000

59. A seller offers a TV for ₹ 27000 cash down or ₹ 3000 cash down and 18 equal monthly installment of ₹ 1500 each. Find the simple interest charged.

- (a)  $17\frac{7}{9}\%$                               (b)  $14\frac{7}{9}\%$   
 (c)  $16\frac{2}{3}\%$                               (d)  $15\frac{1}{3}\%$

60. Find two numbers such that the mean proportional between them is 6 and the third proportional to them is 48.

- (a) (3, 12)                              (b) (4, 9)  
 (c) (2, 18)                              (d) (3, 18)

61. What is the last digit of the product of 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19?

- (a) 0                                      (b) 1  
 (c) 9                                      (d) 5

62. 200 men are employed in a job to complete it by 35 days. After 15 days, it is seen that only  $\frac{2}{7}$ th portion of the job has been finished. The number of men to be further employed to complete the job within the stipulated time is

- (a) 50                                      (b) 175  
 (c) 375                                      (d) 75

63. Two-fifth of X's money is equal to Y's, and seven-ninth of Y's money is equal to Z's; in all they have ₹ 770. How much X has?

- (a) ₹ 140                              (b) ₹ 180                              (c) ₹ 320                              (d) ₹ 450

64. Two bottles contain mixture of milk and water in the ratio of 5 : 1 and the other in the ratio 9 : 1. In what proportion the quantities from the two should be mixed together, so that the mixture thus formed may contain milk and water in the ratio of 8 : 1?

- (a) 1 : 5                              (b) 5 : 1                              (c) 1 : 8                              (d) 2 : 5

65. At 12:00 noon X starts to walk at 6 km an hour and at 1:30 pm. Y follows on horseback at 8 km an hour. When will Y overtake X?

- (a) 4 : 30 pm                              (b) 5 : 00 pm  
 (c) 5 : 30 pm                              (d) 6 : 00 pm

66. Two numbers are in the ratio 5 : 6. If 20 is added to each of them, the ratio becomes 7 : 8. The numbers are

- (a) 55, 66                              (b) 50, 60  
 (c) 40, 48                              (d) 25, 30

67. A person took a loan of ₹ 10000 at X% simple interest and after 5 yr he pays a total of ₹ 14250. Then X is

- (a) 6.5                              (b) 7.5                              (c) 8                              (d) 8.5

68. A rope 198 cm long was cut into two parts so that one part turned out to be 20% longer than the other part. The lengths are

- (a) 100 cm, 98 cm                      (b) 120 cm, 78 cm  
 (c) 108 cm, 90 cm                      (d) 101 cm, 97 cm

69. If  $x = \sqrt{\frac{a}{a+b}}$ , then which one is true?

- (a)  $a = \frac{bx^2}{1-x}$                               (b)  $b = \frac{x}{a(1-x^2)}$   
 (c)  $a = \frac{bx^2}{1-x^2}$                               (d)  $b = \frac{ax^2}{1-x^2}$

70. If  $x : y = 3 : 2$ , find the value of  $(2x - y) : \frac{1}{2}(x + y)$ .

- (a) 5 : 8                              (b) 8 : 5  
 (c) 3 : 5                              (d) 5 : 3

71. Find the value of  $-[-\{-(a - \overline{b - c})\}]$ .

- (a)  $a - b + c$                       (b)  $a + b + c$   
(c)  $-a + b - c$                     (d)  $a - b - c$

72. Simplify  $-[-\{-(y + z - x)\}] + [-\{(x + z - y)\}]$ .

- (a)  $2x + 2y$                       (b)  $2x - 2y$   
(c)  $2x - 2z$                       (d)  $2x - 2y - 2z$

73. Find the value of

$$84 - 7[-11x - 4\{-17x + 3(8 - \overline{9 - 5x})\}]$$

- (a)  $12x$                       (b)  $21x$                       (c)  $x$                       (d)  $-12x$

74. Find the fourth proportional to 6, 9, 20.

- (a) 25                      (b) 30  
(c) 60                      (d) 40

75. The sum of speed with which a motor ship goes with stream and against the stream of a river is equal to 30km/h. The speed of the motor ship in stagnant water is

- (a) 15 km/h                      (b) 18 km/h  
(c) 12 km/h                      (d) 30 km/h

**Directions (Q. Nos. 76-81)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

Though he makes Biblical references throughout 'The Raven,' Poe does not allude to the Bible because he is religious. Rather, he does this because he wishes to invoke the Bible's dramatic and philosophical weight.

For instance, in line 89 the narrator asks the raven, "Is there—is there balm in Gilead?" In ancient Arabia, the balm of Gilead was a salve produced from the tree *Commiphora gileadensis*. The balm was used to treat the dry, scratchy skin common in Arabia's desert climate. (The substance currently marketed as "balm of Gilead," a compound made from the gum of the North American balsam poplar tree, is unlikely to be the subject of Poe's reference.) The balm is more famous, however, because of its mention in the book of Jeremiah, a reference that readers during Poe's time would have easily recognised.

As God punishes Jeremiah's people for their years of sin and disobedience, Jeremiah utters the phrase "is there no balm in Gilead?" The meaning of Jeremiah's question is not literally "is there an ointment that can heal our skin," but something more philosophical: "Is there anything we can do to relieve the suffering of God's punishment?" This philosophical question about the nature of relief from suffering is the one Poe invokes in "The Raven." The narrator is suffering greatly from the loss of his lover Lenore, and this suffering seems hopeless until the mysterious raven appears.

The narrator interprets the raven as an omen of Lenore's future return, but Poe's reference to the balm of Gilead signals to the reader that the narrator's hope is futile. Just as Jeremiah's people had no hope of evading God's power

or punishment, so does the narrator have no hope of reuniting with his lost Lenore. Furthermore, by comparing the profound suffering depicted in the book of Jeremiah to the narrator's pining for Lenore, Poe emphasises just how delusional the narrator really is.

76. The author most likely places the sentence "The substance currently marketed as 'balm of Gilead,' a compound made from the gum of the North American balsam poplar tree, is unlikely to be the subject of Poe's reference" in parentheses because it represents a

- (a) the main idea of the passage  
(b) a direct quotation from another source  
(c) a departure from the main idea  
(d) a controversial statement

77. In the passage, the word 'salve' is a synonym of

- (a) ointment  
(b) solvent  
(c) salvation  
(d) None of the above

78. As used near the end of the passage, which is the best synonym for 'futile'?

- (a) inaccessible  
(b) pointless  
(c) immature  
(d) reckless

79. Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that the author would most likely characterize Poe's attitude towards suffering in 'The Raven' as

- (a) religious  
(b) disrespectful  
(c) delusional  
(d) philosophical

80. The author argues that Poe mentions the balm of Gilead in order to

- (a) demonstrate his own religious convictions  
(b) describe how dry, itchy skin was treated in Arabia's desert climate  
(c) emphasize the delusional nature of the narrator  
(d) argue that the narrator's suffering is universal

81. Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that

- (a) readers during Poe's time were more likely to have read the Bible than today's readers  
(b) the book of Jeremiah contains the most profound depiction of suffering in the Bible  
(c) ravens are often interpreted as an omen foreshadowing a lover's return  
(d) the narrator will eventually be reunited with his lost love, Lenore

**Directions.** (Q. Nos. 82-91) *Read the following passage and answer the questions carefully.*

In one of the most rousing pamphlets of all time, Thomas Paine expounded on the need for American independence. It was 'Common Sense,' Paine alleged, forging his place in the pantheon of America's founders alongside such luminaries as Jefferson, Washington, and Adams. However, unlike those three men, Paine did not enjoy celebrity at the time of his death. Instead of being lionized, Paine was vilified by the very same individuals who once passed his pamphlet around as the gospel truth. But it was not 'Common Sense' that got him excommunicated from the American canon; rather, it was his final work, *The Age of Reason*.

To understand *The Age of Reason*, one needs to understand the context. After the Revolutionary War, Paine returned to his native England before his controversial, pro-French Revolution leanings made him increasingly unpopular. Paine immigrated to France, where he was so revered that he helped draft two separate French constitutions. However, the French Revolution was a far more violent and turbulent conflict than was the American Revolution, with dozens of leaders jockeying for power and killing each other to get it. Paine ended up in prison during one fluctuation of power but turned this vicissitude into an opportunity. It was while he was in prison that Paine wrote *The Age of Reason*, his religious text.

*The Age of Reason* is not an inherently atheistic text, though that is how it was interpreted. Rather, the text espouses the same religious ideals that defined the Enlightenment, especially those ideals of the French Revolution, with its disestablishment of the Catholic Church as a national institution. Paine returned to America in 1802 and quickly fell out of favor in the new nation. Americans saw *The Age of Reason* as expressly anti-Christian, even though the actual philosophy of the text is closer to the deism practiced by Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers.

But America of 1802 was very different from the America of the Revolution, as the Second Great Awakening was just rising. In this new, devoutly Protestant nation, men like Paine were not welcome, nor would have men like Jefferson been, if Jefferson had not adapted to the times and modified his public statements on religion. Jefferson, unlike Paine, had the good sense—politically speaking—to not publish his religious beliefs. Thus, Jefferson, unlike Paine, was able to publicly, at least, keep up with the times. Paine, on the other hand, was ostracized and denied the corridors of political power he had once helped make possible.

Ultimately, Paine was punished for being an anachronism in a world that passed him by. In 1809, Paine died in New York, largely forgotten and certainly not celebrated. And today, while Americans commemorate 'Common Sense', most schoolchildren know nothing of the man who wrote it.

82. In paragraph 1 the author makes use of words most commonly associated with which of the following?
- (a) history (b) patriotism  
(c) politics (d) religion
83. Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be inferred that which of the following would be an example of a 'pantheon'?
- (a) a canon of important works of literature  
(b) a collection of the best baseball players of all time  
(c) a ranking of American presidents  
(d) a history of the most important era in American politics
84. This passage is best described as a(n)
- (a) defense of Thomas Paine's lifework and time in France  
(b) celebration of American patriots  
(c) historic analysis of the end of the Enlightenment  
(d) analysis of Thomas Paine's work in historical context
85. According to the passage, which of the following provides an accurate order of the places Paine lived during his lifetime?
- (a) America, England, France, America, England  
(b) England, America, France, America, England  
(c) England, America, England, France, America  
(d) America, England, France, America
86. As used in paragraph 2, the word 'vicissitude' most nearly means
- (a) opportunity (b) change  
(c) of violence (d) philosophy
87. Based on the description given in paragraph 2, as compared to the French Revolution, the American Revolution was
- (a) relatively stable (b) completely peaceful  
(c) inherently simple (d) largely unimportant
88. Which of the following, if added to the passage, would be least likely to strengthen the author's argument?
- (a) description of Paine's beliefs  
(b) excerpts from *The Age of Reason*  
(c) a brief explanation of the beliefs of the Second Great Awakening  
(d) a history of the French Revolution
89. Which of the following best describes the function of paragraph 2?
- (a) It provides the context for Paine's writings.  
(b) It describes the content of *The Age of Reason*.  
(c) It explains Paine's unpopularity in America.  
(d) It introduces the author's main argument.

90. Which of the following summarizes the author's principal explanation for Paine's unpopularity at the time of his death?
- He had betrayed the ideals of his own and his adopted countries.
  - He was explicitly atheistic at a time of religious fervor.
  - He was the relic of an earlier era of religious thought.
  - He was associated with the equally unpopular Thomas Jefferson.

91. As used in the final paragraph, the word anachronism most nearly means something
- disdainful and deservedly criticized
  - vilified and demonized by the masses
  - that incites religious passion and zeal
  - belonging to a different time period

**Directions (Q. Nos. 92-100)** Read the following passage and answer the questions carefully.

Ever hear that John F. Kennedy was assassinated by someone other than Lee Harvey Oswald? Or how about the fact that the United States government has been harboring extraterrestrials and their advanced technology at Area 51? Or—my favorite for its sheer lunacy—that the moon landing was staged in Hollywood? You might laugh at these theories, or like millions of Americans, you might believe them wholeheartedly. Regardless of their veracity, they exist and proliferate each day, and the Internet has only helped to promulgate them.

So where do they come from? Well, in a literal sense, they come from people asking questions and seeking answers. But in a more figurative sense, they come from the experience of not knowing, the great void created by a dearth of certainty. There are several questions about the Kennedy assassination, enough so that several government panels (most notably the Warren Commission) have investigated it; there have been several thousands of reports of UFO encounters (not to mention an equally absurd number of television shows about aliens); and there are aspects of the moon landing that seem too good to be true. But none of these questions necessarily hint at something nefarious or sinister. Rather, they demonstrate that these events are all too real. Nothing in life is certain, and nothing completely adds up. Sure, we'd all prefer major historic events to have the certainty of a sunrise, but there's the rub: most of us do not really know why the sun rises or even, with certainty, that it will rise tomorrow. But a sane person does not question the sunrise, though that same person will wonder about the trajectory of a bullet in Dallas.

None of this is to say that one should not ask questions. Rather, one should ask questions of everything! We should know who shot JFK, whether there are aliens, and whether the Illuminati control everything. Yet, this is impossible.

We can no more know these things than we can know who specifically invented the wheel. So, rather than making up theories to explain away the lacuna of facts, we should simply accept the fact that we will never know absolutely everything about anything. Continue asking questions, but don't make up ridiculous answers for them. Because the ultimate problem with conspiracy theories is that they don't answer any questions; they merely explain away gaps of knowledge with pseudoscience.

Put differently, no one is really sure why cats purr, but that doesn't mean that cats do not purr. There does not need to be a why for every what.

92. Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be inferred that 'veracity' belongs to which of the following word groups?

- ridiculousness, preposterousness, absurdity
- artifice, bias, prejudice
- fallacy, misconception, delusion
- authenticity, genuineness, truth

93. As used in paragraph 2, the word 'nefarious' most nearly means

- indifferent
- secret
- evil
- vague

94. In this passage, the author makes use of which of the following literary devices?

- Rhetorical question, characterized by a question posed for effect rather than one that expects a reply
- Satire, characterized by the use of ridicule to expose a vice, weakness, or flaw
- Repetition, characterized by repeating the same phrase multiple times for emphasis in order to produce a grander effect
- Paradox, characterized by the use of contradictory concepts or ideas that, when placed together, bear a deep significance or possible truth

95. The main purpose of this passage is to

- provide information about the history of conspiracy theories in the twentieth century
- argue that conspiracy theories are harmful to those who ask questions
- refute the notion that conspiracy theories have no benefit in answering unknowable questions
- argue that conspiracy theories arise from normal questions

96. Which of the following pieces of information, if added to the passage, would most strengthen the author's argument?

- proof that Lee Harvey Oswald did not assassinate John F. Kennedy
- examples of ancient theories explaining the sunrise and interactions with aliens

90. Which of the following summarizes the author's principal explanation for Paine's unpopularity at the time of his death?
- He had betrayed the ideals of his own and his adopted countries.
  - He was explicitly atheistic at a time of religious fervor.
  - He was the relic of an earlier era of religious thought.
  - He was associated with the equally unpopular Thomas Jefferson.

91. As used in the final paragraph, the word anachronism most nearly means something
- disdainful and deservedly criticized
  - vilified and demonized by the masses
  - that incites religious passion and zeal
  - belonging to a different time period

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 92-100) *Read the following passage and answer the questions carefully.*

Ever hear that John F. Kennedy was assassinated by someone other than Lee Harvey Oswald? Or how about the fact that the United States government has been harboring extraterrestrials and their advanced technology at Area 51? Or—my favorite for its sheer lunacy—that the moon landing was staged in Hollywood? You might laugh at these theories, or like millions of Americans, you might believe them wholeheartedly. Regardless of their veracity, they exist and proliferate each day, and the Internet has only helped to promulgate them.

So where do they come from? Well, in a literal sense, they come from people asking questions and seeking answers. But in a more figurative sense, they come from the experience of not knowing, the great void created by a dearth of certainty. There are several questions about the Kennedy assassination, enough so that several government panels (most notably the Warren Commission) have investigated it; there have been several thousands of reports of UFO encounters (not to mention an equally absurd number of television shows about aliens); and there are aspects of the moon landing that seem too good to be true. But none of these questions necessarily hint at something nefarious or sinister. Rather, they demonstrate that these events are all too real. Nothing in life is certain, and nothing completely adds up. Sure, we'd all prefer major historic events to have the certainty of a sunrise, but there's the rub: most of us do not really know why the sun rises or even, with certainty, that it will rise tomorrow. But a sane person does not question the sunrise, though that same person will wonder about the trajectory of a bullet in Dallas.

None of this is to say that one should not ask questions. Rather, one should ask questions of everything! We should know who shot JFK, whether there are aliens, and whether the Illuminati control everything. Yet, this is impossible.

We can no more know these things than we can know who specifically invented the wheel. So, rather than making up theories to explain away the lacuna of facts, we should simply accept the fact that we will never know absolutely everything about anything. Continue asking questions, but don't make up ridiculous answers for them. Because the ultimate problem with conspiracy theories is that they don't answer any questions; they merely explain away gaps of knowledge with pseudoscience.

Put differently, no one is really sure why cats purr, but that doesn't mean that cats do not purr. There does not need to be a why for every what.

92. Based on its use in paragraph 1, it can be inferred that 'veracity' belongs to which of the following word groups?
- ridiculousness, preposterousness, absurdity
  - artifice, bias, prejudice
  - fallacy, misconception, delusion
  - authenticity, genuineness, truth

93. As used in paragraph 2, the word 'nefarious' most nearly means
- indifferent
  - secret
  - evil
  - vague

94. In this passage, the author makes use of which of the following literary devices?
- Rhetorical question, characterized by a question posed for effect rather than one that expects a reply
  - Satire, characterized by the use of ridicule to expose a vice, weakness, or flaw
  - Repetition, characterized by repeating the same phrase multiple times for emphasis in order to produce a grander effect
  - Paradox, characterized by the use of contradictory concepts or ideas that, when placed together, bear a deep significance or possible truth

95. The main purpose of this passage is to
- provide information about the history of conspiracy theories in the twentieth century
  - argue that conspiracy theories are harmful to those who ask questions
  - refute the notion that conspiracy theories have no benefit in answering unknowable questions
  - argue that conspiracy theories arise from normal questions

96. Which of the following pieces of information, if added to the passage, would most strengthen the author's argument?
- proof that Lee Harvey Oswald did not assassinate John F. Kennedy
  - examples of ancient theories explaining the sunrise and interactions with aliens

- (c) a survey suggesting that very few Americans actually believe in conspiracy theories
- (d) examples of gaps in certainty about the Kennedy assassination, aliens, and the moon landing

**97.** As used in paragraph 3, 'lacuna' most nearly means

- (a) a body of water
- (b) a gap
- (c) an abundance
- (d) a fallacy

**98.** Which of the following best describes the function of the third paragraph in the context of the rest of the passage?

- (a) It redirects the passage and furthers the author's main argument.
- (b) It refutes the argument made earlier in the passage and provides a new one.
- (c) It introduces several hypothetical conspiracies for the purpose of providing evidence for an earlier point.

- (d) It states the author's main thesis and restates the evidence the author uses to make his or her argument.

**99.** In the final paragraph, the author most likely uses the example of why cats purr to suggest that some things

- (a) are unknowable
- (b) should simply be accepted as fact
- (c) are scientific truths
- (d) are better left to conspiracy theorists

**100.** Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage as a possible conspiracy theory?

- (a) The moon landing was staged.
- (b) The government has hidden aliens for years.
- (c) Kennedy was not assassinated by a lone gunman.
- (d) The wheel was not invented by one person.

1. (d) 'Mendacious' refers to something characterised by deception or falsehood. Hence, 'perfidious' meaning deceitful and untrustworthy is nearest in meaning to mendacious.
2. (a) 'Brobdingnagian' means huge or gigantic. Hence, 'colossal' meaning extremely large is nearest in meaning to brobdingnagian.
3. (b) 'Pusillanimous' means showing a lack of courage or determination. Hence, 'tremulous' meaning affected with timidity is nearest in meaning to pusillanimous.
4. (c) The phrase 'fall flat' means to fail to produce the intended or expected effect.
5. (b) The phrase 'slip out' means to leave quietly or quickly so that no one will know.
6. (a) 'Rostrum' refers to a raised platform on which to stand while giving a public speech. Hence, 'dais' meaning a raised platform is the most similar to rostrum.
7. (d) 'Homespun' means simple and unsophisticated or 'unrefined'.
8. (c) 'Fester' means to become rotten and offensive to the senses. Hence, 'decay' is the most similar in meaning to fester.
9. (d) The given sentence is in present tense. Hence, 'have seen' is the most appropriate word to fill the blank.
10. (b) The given sentence is referring to an action that happened while another action was in progress. Hence, past continuous tense form 'were playing' is the most appropriate to fill the blank.
11. (a) 'Angst' refers to a feeling of deep anxiety, apprehension or 'dread'.
12. (a) 'Perseverance' refers to the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties. Hence, 'determination' meaning the quality of firmness of purpose or resolve is its correct synonym.
13. (b) 'Retrograde' means reverting to an earlier and inferior condition. Hence, 'downhill' is its correct synonym.
14. (c) 'Abrasive' means to show little concern for the feelings of others. Hence, 'kind' is its correct antonym.
15. (a) 'Pandemonium' means wild and noisy disorder or confusion. Hence, 'silence' is its correct antonym.
16. (a) The idiom 'got on well' means to establish a friendly relationship.
17. (c) 'Reluctance' means disinclination to do something. Hence, 'willingness' meaning preparedness is its correct antonym.
18. (c) 'Intransigent' means unwilling or refusing to change one's views about something; unyielding. Hence, 'unbending' is its correct synonym.
19. (b) 'Rebut' means to claim or prove something to be wrong. Hence, 'disprove' is its correct synonym.
20. (c) The idiom 'good innings' means to have had a long and successful life.
21. (d) The idiom 'under a cloud' means under suspicion or discredited.
22. (b) Tibetan Plateau is the highest and largest plateau in the world. It is often called as 'the Roof of the World'. It covers an area of 2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with a height of about 5000 m (16000 ft) above sea level. The plateau shares its borders with inner Himalayan range, to the North by Kunlun mountains which separates it from the Tarim Basin, and to the Northeast by the Qilian mountains which separates the plateau from the Hexi Corridor and Gobi desert.
23. (a) According to the rules of subject-verb agreement, when a plural noun denotes some specific quantity or amount which is considered as a whole, the verb used is singular. Hence, 'is' is the right word to complete the sentence.
24. (b) 'Hesitancy' refers to the state of being uncertain or hesitant. Hence, 'certainty' is the word opposite in meaning to hesitancy.
25. (c) 'Innocuous' means not harmful or offensive. Hence, 'harmful' is its correct antonym.
26. (a) 'Fragility' refers to the state of being easily broken or weak. Hence, 'robustness' meaning the quality or condition of being strong is its correct antonym.
27. (a) BRICS stands for—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. BRICS aims at promoting peace, security, development and cooperation among its members and significantly contributes to the establishment of a more equitable and fair world. The first BRIC summit was held in 2009 in Yekaterinburg (Russia). In 2010, South Africa formally joined the Association making it BRICS. India chaired 13th BRICS summit 2021 virtually.
28. (c) Parakram Diwas is observed to celebrate the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose. It is celebrated annually on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Netaji played a pivotal role in Indian Independence Movement. He was the head of Indian National Army. He was the important leader of Azad Hind Fauz.
29. (a) In study of pollution, SPM refers to Suspended Particulate Matter. SPM are microscopic particles of solid or liquid matter suspended in the air. Some pollutants do not dissolve in water as their molecules are too big to mix between the water molecules. This material is called particulate matter.
30. (d) The CSIR (Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute) is situated in Kolkata, West Bengal. It was established in 1950. It focuses on the area of glass, ceramics, mica and refractories etc.

31. (c) Hollywood is located in California, US. Its name has come to be a shorthand reference for the USA film industry and the people associated with it.

32. (c) In the figure given in question, if we form a meaningful word starting from P in anti-clockwise direction.

Then, the word is 'PAVE M ENT'.

$\therefore ? = M$

33. (b) Parasite won the 'Oscar Award 2020' for best film. Parasite is South Korean movie (2019) directed by Bong Joon-Ho.

Nomadland won the 'Oscar Award 2021' for best film. This is regarded as most prestigious and significant award in the entertainment industry worldwide.

34. (c) The capital of Somalia is Mogadishu. It is a country in the Horn of Africa. Its currency is Somali Shiling.

The country is bordered by Ethiopia to the West, Djibouti to the Northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the North, the Indian Ocean to the East, and Kenya to the Southwest. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland.

35. (d) Finland is known as Land of Thousands Lakes. It has closed to 1,68,000 lakes. Finland is a Northern European nation bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia. Finland is famous for being the happiest country in the world. Its capital is Helsinki and currency is Euro.

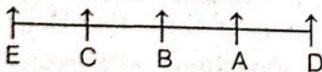
36. (c) In Banking system, the abbreviation SWIFT stands for—Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications. It is a Belgium Cooperative Society providing services related to the execution of financial transactions and payments between banks worldwide. It was founded in 1973.

37. (a) NASA refers to The National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It is an independent agency of the US federal government responsible for the civilian space programme, as well as Aeronautics and Space research. It was founded in 1958. Its headquarters is located in Washington DC, America.

38. (a) B is the right of C.

C (↑)      B (↑)

A is to the left of D and right of B. C is to the right of E.



$\therefore B$  is in the middle of the row.

39. (c) In one minute, minute hand will make

$$= \frac{360^\circ}{60} = 6^\circ$$

In one minute, hour hand will make  $= \frac{30^\circ}{60} = \frac{1^\circ}{2}$

Let after  $x$  min past 12 o'clock they together make a right angle.

$$\text{So, } 6x^\circ - \frac{x^\circ}{2} = 90^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{11x^\circ}{2} = 90^\circ$$

$$x = \frac{180}{11} \text{ min}$$

Now,

After  $\frac{180}{11}$  min, they together make  $90^\circ$ .

After  $\frac{180}{11} \times 2$  min they together make

$$= 90^\circ \times 2 = 180^\circ$$

After  $\frac{180}{11} \times 3$  min they together make  $90 \times 3 = 270^\circ$

After  $\frac{180}{11} \times 4 = \frac{720}{11}$  min they together make

$$= 90^\circ \times 4 = 360^\circ$$

So, in  $\frac{720}{11}$  min, minute hand and hour hand are at  $90^\circ$  only

2 times ( $90^\circ$  and  $270^\circ$ ).

So, in 24 h,  $\frac{11}{720} \times 24 \times 60 \times 2 = 44$  times

40. (b) All are antonyms to each-other, while Gain-Profit are synonyms

41. (d) As, in first row,

$$\frac{18}{2} + 4 \times 4 = 9 + 16 = 25$$

In second row,  $\frac{16}{2} + 3 \times 4 = 8 + 12 = 20$

Similarly, in third row,  $\frac{6}{2} + \boxed{3} \times 4 = 3 + 12 = 15$

$\therefore ? = 3$

42. (a) India won the Cricket World Cup in 1983 by defeating West Indies. It was the 3rd edition of the cricket world cup tournament, held from 9th to 25th June 1983. ICC men's cricket world cup is organised in every four years. India also won the World Cup of 2011. The next ICC men's cricket world cup will be held in 2023 in India.

43. (a) The book 'Home in the World': A Memoir (2021) is written by Amartya Sen. The book is Memoir of Amartya Sen for the first thirty odd years of his life.

Amartya Sen is an Indian Economist and Philosopher. He was honoured with Nobel Prize in Economy (1998) and Bharat Ratna India's highest civilian award in 1999.

44. (c) Rani Rampal was the captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team for Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Tokyo Olympics was held from 23rd July to 8th August 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. India won total 7 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze).

The next Olympics will be held in Paris (France) from 26 July to 11 August 2024.

45. (d) The rank of India is 135 among 163 countries in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021. GPI is a report produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace which measures the relative position of nation's and region's peacefulness. The GPI indicates Iceland New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal and Slovenia to be the most peaceful countries.

46. (a) In mirror image, hour hand will be just before 12 and minute hand will be 8 min before 12.

Thus, in mirror image the time will be 11 : 52

47. (a) In 15 min, minute hand will make  $= \frac{360^\circ}{60} \times 15 = 90^\circ$

After 6 h and 15 min, hour hand will be at

$$\frac{30^\circ}{60} \times (6 \times 60 + 15) = \frac{1^\circ}{2} \times 375 = 187\frac{1}{2}$$

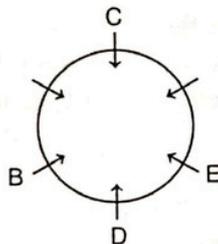
$$\therefore \text{Required angle} = 187\frac{1}{2} - 90 = 97\frac{1}{2}$$

48. (c) According to question

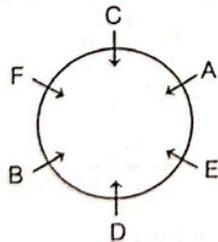
	Football	Cricket	Golf	Volley-ball	Tennis
R	✓	✓	✓		
K	✓	✓		✓	
S	✓		✓		✓
G		✓	✓	✓	✓
M			✓		✓

So, only K is good in Football, Volleyball and Cricket.

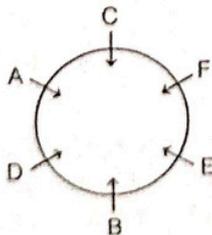
49. (b) C is facing to D. D is to the right of B and left of E.



E is to the left of A. F is to the right of C.



A exchange his position with F and B with D. New position is

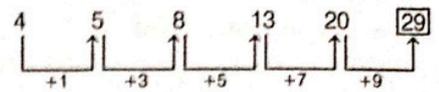


So, C is left of A.

50. (c)  $K \xrightarrow{+1} L \xrightarrow{+1} M \xrightarrow{+1} N \xrightarrow{+1} O$   
 $P \xrightarrow{+1} Q \xrightarrow{+1} R \xrightarrow{+1} S \xrightarrow{+1} T$   
 $A \xrightarrow{+1} B \xrightarrow{+1} C \xrightarrow{+1} D \xrightarrow{+1} E$

51. (b)  $P \xrightarrow{+2} R \xrightarrow{+2} T \xrightarrow{+2} V \xrightarrow{+2} X$   
 $O \xrightarrow{+2} Q \xrightarrow{+2} S \xrightarrow{+2} U \xrightarrow{+2} W$   
 $N \xrightarrow{+2} P \xrightarrow{+2} R \xrightarrow{+2} T \xrightarrow{+2} V$

52. (a) Given series,



$$\therefore ? = 20 + 9 = 29$$

53. (a) On 'Pitch' we play 'Cricket', in same way on 'Court' we play 'Tennis'.

54. (a)  $16 - 6 \times 25 + 36 + 2 = -116$

$$\Rightarrow 16 - 6 \times 25 + 18 = -116$$

$$\Rightarrow 16 - 150 + 18 = -116$$

$$\Rightarrow 34 - 150 = -116$$

$$-116 = -116$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

55. (c) Interchanging '+' and 'x'.

$$\Rightarrow 28 - 32 \times 2 + 286 + 26 = -25$$

$$\Rightarrow 28 - 32 \times 2 + 11 = -25$$

$$\Rightarrow 28 - 64 + 11 = -25$$

$$\Rightarrow 39 - 64 = -25$$

$$-25 = -25$$

$$\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

56. (c) Let the distance between place A and place B is y km.

Distance covered on the first day = 30% of y

Remaining distance = (100 - 30)% of y = 70% of y

Distance covered on the second day = 60% of remaining distance = 60% of 70% of y = 42% of y

Remaining distance after first two days

$$= (72 - 42)\% \text{ of } y = 28\% \text{ of } y$$

Given, 30% of y - 28% of y = 5 km

$$2\% \text{ of } y = 5 \text{ km}$$

$$y = \frac{5 \times 100}{2} = 250 \text{ km}$$

57. (c) Let the salary of Salim and Manjur = ₹ x

Then, 22% of x = 1540

$$x = \frac{1540 \times 100}{22}$$

$$= ₹ 7000$$

Salim's salary = x = 7000

Salim's saving = 14% of x = 14% of 7000 = ₹ 980

58. (d) Let the capital is ₹ x.

Then,

$$\frac{x \times 12 \times 1}{100} - \frac{x \times 10.5 \times 1}{100} = 900$$

$$\Rightarrow 12x - 10.5x = 900 \times 100$$

$$x = \frac{900 \times 100}{1.5} = ₹ 60000$$

59. (a) Total amount to be paid after 3000 down payment  
 $= 27000 - 3000 = ₹ 24000$

Total amount to be paid over 18 months

$$= 24000 + \text{Interest}$$

$$= 24000 + \frac{24000 \times 18 \times x}{100 \times 12}$$

$$= ₹ (24000 + 360x)$$

Now, at  $x\%$  simple interest (let).

$$\left(1500 + \frac{1500 \times 17 \times x}{100 \times 12}\right) + \left(1500 + \frac{1500 \times 16 \times x}{100 \times 12}\right) + \dots$$

$$+ \left(1500 + \frac{1500 \times 1 \times x}{100 \times 12}\right) + 1500 = 24000 + 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow 1500 \times 18 + 1500 \left[ \frac{17x}{1200} + \frac{16x}{1200} + \dots + \frac{x}{1200} \right]$$

$$= 24000 + 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow 1500 \times 18 + \frac{1500}{1200} \times x [17 + 16 + \dots + 1]$$

$$= 24000 + 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow 27000 + \frac{5}{4}x \left[ \frac{17(17+1)}{2} \right] = 24000 + 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5}{4}x \times \frac{17 \times 18}{2} + 27000 - 24000 = 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{153 \times 5x}{4} + 3000 = 360x$$

$$\Rightarrow 765x + 12000 = 1440x$$

$$\Rightarrow 675x = 12000$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{12000}{675} = \frac{40 \times 4}{9} = \frac{160}{9}$$

$$\therefore x = 17\frac{7}{9}\%$$

60. (a) Mean proportional = 6

Let the numbers are  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$\text{Then, } xy = 6^2 \text{ or } xy = 36 \text{ or } x = \frac{36}{y}$$

Also given,  $x : y = y : 48$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 = 48x$$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 = \frac{48 \times 36}{y}$$

$$\Rightarrow y^3 = 8 \times 6 \times 6 \times 6$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2 \times 6 = 12, x = \frac{36}{y} = \frac{36}{12} = 3$$

So, the number are 3 and 12.

61. (a) Here, one of the given number unit place is 5 (15) and other number unit place is even number (12 and 14).

So, the last digit of the given numbers product will be zero.

62. (b) 200 men 15 days work =  $\frac{2}{7}$

$$1 \text{ man 1 day work} = \frac{2}{7 \times 200 \times 15}$$

Let  $x$  number of men further employed to complete the remaining work in stipulated time.

Thus,

$$\text{Total men} = 200 + x$$

$$\text{Remaining days} = 35 - 15 = 20 \text{ days}$$

$$\text{Remaining work} = 1 - \frac{2}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{2}{7 \times 200 \times 15} \times (200 + x) \times 20 = \frac{5}{7}$$

$$200 + x = 5 \times 15 \times 5$$

$$x = 375 - 200 = 175$$

63. (d) Given,  $\frac{2}{5}X = Y$  and  $\frac{7}{9}Y = Z$

$$\text{Also, } X + Y + Z = 770$$

$$\Rightarrow X + \frac{2}{5}X + \frac{7}{9}Y = 770$$

$$\Rightarrow X + \frac{2}{5}X + \frac{7}{9} \times \frac{2}{5}X = 770$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{45X + 18X + 14X}{45} = 770$$

$$\Rightarrow 77X = 45 \times 770$$

$$\Rightarrow X = 450 \times 10$$

$$X = 450$$

64. (a) Let  $x$  L from the 1st bottle and  $y$  L from the second bottle is taken out to get the required ratio.

Total milk quantity in the final mixture

$$= \frac{5x}{5+1} + \frac{9}{9+1}y$$

$$= \frac{25x + 27y}{30}$$

Total water quantity in the final mixture

$$= \frac{1}{5+1}x + \frac{1}{9+1}y$$

$$= \frac{5x + 3y}{30}$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{25x + 27y}{30} : \frac{5x + 3y}{30} = 8 : 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 8(5x + 3y) = 25x + 27y$$

$$\Rightarrow 40x + 24y = 25x + 27y$$

$$\Rightarrow 15x = 3y$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = \frac{3}{15} = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 : 5$$

65. (d) Total distance covered by X at 1 : 30 pm

$$= 6 \text{ km/h} \times (1 : 30 - 12 : 00)$$

$$= 6 \text{ km/h} \times 1.5 \text{ h}$$

$$= 9 \text{ km}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Relative speed of } X \text{ and } Y &= (8 - 6) \text{ km/h} \\ &= 2 \text{ km/h} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Time taken to cover 9 km} &= \frac{9}{2} \\ &= 4\frac{1}{2} \text{ h} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, Y will overtake X at  $1:30 \text{ pm} + 4\frac{1}{2} \text{ h}$   
 $= 6:00 \text{ pm}$

66. (b) Let the constant of proportionality =  $K$

Then, the numbers are  $5K$  and  $6K$ .

$$\text{Now, } \frac{5K + 20}{6K + 20} = \frac{7}{8}$$

$$\Rightarrow 40K + 160 = 42K + 140$$

$$\Rightarrow 2K = 20$$

$$K = 10$$

Hence, the numbers are 50 and 60.

67. (d) Total simple interest paid =  $14250 - 10000$   
 $= 4250$

$$\text{Then, } 4250 = \frac{10000 \times X \times 5}{100}$$

$$\text{or } X = \frac{4250}{100 \times 5} = 8.5\%$$

68. (c) Let length of first part of rope be  $x$  cm.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, length of second part} &= \frac{120}{100}x \text{ cm} \\ &= \frac{6}{5}x \text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

According to the question,

$$x + \frac{6}{5}x = 198$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{11x}{5} = 198$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{198 \times 5}{11}$$

Length of first part  $x = 90$  cm

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Length of second part} &= \frac{120}{100} \times 90 \\ &= 108 \text{ cm} \end{aligned}$$

69. (a) Given,  $x = \sqrt{\frac{a}{a+b}}$

$$x^2 = \frac{a}{a+b}$$

$$\text{or } x^2(a+b) = a$$

$$\Rightarrow ax^2 + bx^2 = a$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow bx^2 &= a - ax^2 \\ &= a(1 - x^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a = \frac{bx^2}{1 - x^2}$$

70. (b) Let the constant of proportionality is  $K$ .

Then,  $x = 3K$  and  $y = 2K$ .

$$\text{Now, } \frac{(2x - y)}{\frac{1}{2}(x + y)} = \frac{6K - 2K}{\frac{1}{2}(3K + 2K)} = \frac{4K \times 2}{5K} = \frac{8}{5}$$

$$\text{So, } (2x - y) : \frac{1}{2}(x + y) = 8:5$$

$$\begin{aligned} 71. (c) -[-\{-(a - \overline{b - c})\}] &= -[-\{-(a - b + c)\}] \\ &= -[-\{-a + b - c\}] \\ &= -[a - b + c] \\ &= -a + b - c \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 72. (b) -[-\{-(y + z - x)\}] &+ [-\{-(x + z - y)\}] \\ &= -[-\{-y - z + x\}] + [-\{-x - z + y\}] \\ &= -[y + z - x] + [x + z - y] \\ &= -y - z + x + x + z - y \\ &= 2x - 2y \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 73. (b) 84 - 7[-11x - 4\{-(17x + 3(8 - 9 - 5x))\}] \\ &= 84 - 7[-11x - 4\{-17x + 3(8 - 9 + 5x)\}] \\ &= 84 - 7[-11x - 4\{-17x - 3 + 15x\}] \\ &= 84 - 7[-11x - 4\{-3 - 2x\}] \\ &= 84 - 7[-11x + 12 + 8x] \\ &= 84 - 7[-3x + 12] \\ &= 84 + 21x - 84 = 21x \end{aligned}$$

74. (b) Let the fourth proportional is  $x$ .

Then,  $6 : 9 :: 20 : x$

$$6x = 9 \times 20$$

$$x = \frac{9 \times 20}{6} = 30$$

75. (a) Let the speed of the motorship =  $x$  km/h

and speed of the stream =  $y$  km/h

Given,  $(x + y) + (x - y) = 30$  km/h

$$2x = 30 \text{ km/h}$$

$$x = 15 \text{ km/h}$$

76. (c) A parenthesis refers to a word or phrase inserted as an afterthought. Hence, the given sentence gives a departure from the main idea of the passage.

77. (a) 'Salve' means an ointment used to promote healing of the skin.

78. (b) 'Futile' means pointless or fruitless.

79. (d) The passage mentions that Poe invokes a philosophical question about the nature of relief from suffering, in 'The Raven'. Hence, his attitude towards suffering is philosophical.

80. (c) Poe's reference to "the balm of Gilead" brings to the readers' notice that the narrator's hope for Lenore's return is pointless and thus emphasises the narrator's delusion.

81. (a) It can be inferred from the given passage that the readers will easily recognise the reference of 'the balm of Gilead' as it is mentioned in the Bible—a book that most readers of his time would have read.

82. (d) In the first paragraph, the author makes use of words 'pantheon', 'gospel' and 'excommunicated', which are most commonly associated with religion.
83. (b) In the first paragraph, the word 'pantheon' is used to refer to a group of particularly respected, famous, or important people. Hence, 'a collection (group) of the best baseball players of all time' is an example of a pantheon.
84. (d) The given passage mentions and analyses how the text *The Age of Reason* was received and interpreted by the people of the time when it was composed.
85. (c) The passage mentions that Paine's native country was England, where he returned from America after the Revolutionary War, and further lived in France for a short period of time before ending up in America again.
86. (b) 'Vicissitude' means an unpleasant change of circumstances or fortune. Hence, 'change' is the nearest in meaning to vicissitude.
87. (a) The passage mentions that in comparison to the American Revolution, the French Revolution was more violent and turbulent. Hence, the American Revolution was relatively more stable.
88. (d) The purpose of the passage is to analyse the text in historical context, and though *The Age of Reason* has connections with the French Revolution, its history wouldn't contribute much to the author's argument. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
89. (a) The second paragraph gives the context of Paine's *The Age of Reason*.
90. (c) The passage suggests that the "America of 1802 was very different from the America" during the revolution. It had become a devout Protestant nation and thus wasn't very kind to men with beliefs like that of Paine. Hence, Paine had become a relic, who had stuck to the religious thoughts of the earlier era and became unpopular at the time of his demise.
91. (d) 'Anachronism' refers to the action of attributing something to a period to which it does not belong. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
92. (d) The word 'veracity' means conformity to facts; accuracy. Hence, it belongs to the word group—'authenticity, genuineness, truth'.
93. (c) 'Nefarious' means wicked or criminal. Hence, 'evil' is nearest in meaning to nefarious.
94. (a) The author makes use of rhetorical questions—which refer to questions asked in order to produce an effect or to make a statement rather than to elicit information.
95. (d) The purpose of the passage is to argue that conspiracy theories arise from normal questions. The author doesn't suggest to stop asking questions, but that one should accept that no one can ever know everything and thus shouldn't make a conspiracy theory to explain what one does not know, and accept some things as facts.
96. (d) The author could have added more examples of the gaps in the certainty about the Kennedy assassination, the aliens and the moon landing to strengthen his/her argument.
97. (b) 'Lacuna' means an unfilled space or a gap.
98. (a) The third paragraph redirects the passage and furthers the author's main argument by asserting that one shouldn't make up conspiracy theories just to fill the gaps of knowledge.
99. (b) The author's example of why cats purr suggests that some things should simply be accepted as facts and not questioned.
100. (d) The passage doesn't mention the invention of wheel by more than one person as a conspiracy theory.