

Passage — 1

Even the poorest families in Kashmir have matches and cooking fuel. The combination usually sustains life. But it can also be the making of a horrifying escape from poverty, abuse and depression. The night before she burned herself, Zaheeda (name changed) took her children to her sister's house for a family party. All seemed well. Later it emerged that she had not brought a present, and a relative had chided her for it, said her son Maroof Ahmed. This small thing apparently broke her.

Srinagar's two main hospitals — SMHS and SKIMS — receive three or four such cases weekly. A large number of people, mostly from villages, don't even reach the hospitals — they die on the way or in local health centers.

The main reason, of course, is the lack of medical care and trained staff in rural hospitals and health centers. It takes hours for emergency patients to reach hospitals in Srinagar. As per records, around 30 percent people with burns survive in hospitals. Women in Kashmir have suffered enormously since the "separatist struggle became violent in 1989-90. Like the women in other conflict zones, they have been raped, tortured, maimed and killed. A few of them were even jailed for years together. According to a study by the Medecins Sans Frontieres, Kashmiri women are among the worst sufferers of sexual violence in the world. "Sexual violence has been routinely perpetrated on Kashmiri women, with 11.6 percent of the respondents saying they were victims of sexual abuse," says the 2005 study, adding that the figure is much higher than that of Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Chechnya. A study by the Kashmiri University's Department of Sociology in 2002 revealed that 90 percent of the estimated 10,000 Kashmiri war widows didn't remarry.

Says prominent sociologist Dr. Bashir Ahmed Dabla: "Throughout the world, it's found that suicide rates are the highest among men and more intense in urban areas, but in the Valley the reverse is true." He cited the raging conflict as the underlying factor. The problem is grave amongst widows who, after losing their husbands, the sole bread earners of the family, had to single-handedly take care of the children. The lack of financial and emotional support on the part of the families and society has put these widows in peril. "Losing the sole bread earner of the family and a life partner brings disaster to women. The problems

become serious when she is left with children, who are toddlers or teens. All of a sudden, all the burden is put on her. She has to earn, support and bring up her children. They very thought of these pressures is too disturbing for any women," said Dr. Nadeem of the SMHS hospital. He added that women, who lose support from in-laws and have no support from parents either; fall prey to severe mental pressure and depression.

While some women are able to reside in their parents' house, most are forced to live all alone with their children. "After losing husbands, she feels insecure. This feeling is augmented when her in-laws and sometimes even parents are not in a condition to provide her financial and emotional support. She feels destitute, alone and insecure." The burden of the responsibilities of earning, educating and bringing up children all alone becomes a life-long pressure to these women, most of whom prefer not to remarry. "Since most of the widows do not marry for different reasons, they are put to pressures all life which are never shared. When stress is perpetuated for year, it gives rise to depression and hence, she sets herself on fire, added the doctor.

In the hospital, Zaheeda rallied at first, and her son Maroof Ahmed was encouraged, unaware of how difficult it is to survive such extensive burns. The greatest risk is sepsis, a deadly infection that generally starts in the second week of a burn injury and is hard to stop. Even badly burnt and infected patients can speak almost up to the hour of their death, often giving families a false hope. "She was getting better," felt her son, who was just being hopeful as any child would be, But the infection had, in fact, set in and the family did not have the money for powerful antibiotics that could give her the chance there was to survive. Two weeks after his mother set herself on fire, Maroof stood by her bed as she stopped breathing.

1. Why is the pattern/trend of suicides in the Kashmir valley different from that of the rest of the world ?

- People would prefer to kill themselves rather than be killed by someone else.
- Direct involvement in conflict makes people prone to severe depression.
- Suicide rates are higher among the women living in less urban areas.
- Conflict causes unemployment, which in turn, causes mental pressure and depression.

2. What was the immediate reason behind Zaheeda's attempt to commit suicide ?

- (a) She could not face the trauma of her husband's expiry.
- (b) Acute financial problems and lack of support from family led her to this.
- (c) She could not fulfill the needs of her children.
- (d) She was rebuked for not bringing a present to a party.

3. Which of the following cannot be said to be a reason as to why Zaheeda could not survive her burn injuries ?

- (a) Precious time had elapsed by the time she was brought to the hospital
- (b) Her family was not affluent enough to buy the requisite medicines.
- (c) Infection had set in
- (d) She was affected by sepsis.

4. Which of the following best sums up the irony exemplified by 'matches and cooking fuel'?

- (a) These are a necessity and even the poorest will have to have them.
- (b) These items sustain life but are unaffordable for the poor.
- (c) These items sustain life but can also be used to extinguish life.
- (d) These items sustain life but the raging conflict takes life.

5. What gives false hope to the families of sepsis victims?

- (a) The patients show false signs of recovery in the initial stage.
- (b) Even the worst patients can speak almost till the end.
- (c) The symptoms remain undetected till the last stage.
- (d) Most patients do not complain of any pain.

6. What is the most plausible reason behind the author taking the example of Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Chechnya ?

- (a) These are examples of places where sexual violence is quite high.
- (b) These are places similar to Kashmir.
- (c) The author wants to compare Kashmir with places from every corner of the world.
- (d) They are also conflict zones.

7. According to the passage, the most likely solution to the problem of widow suicides in Kashmir is :

- (a) encouraging widows to remarry.
- (b) legalizing remarriage of widows.
- (c) hospitals well equipped with medical care and properly trained staff.

(d) preventing under-age marriages.

8. Which of the following is true about Dr. Nadeem ?

- (a) Zaheed was his patient.
- (b) He is a champion of widow remarriage.
- (c) He is connected with SMHS.
- (d) He is connected with SKIMS.

9. Which of the following is the most appropriate antonym of the word 'augmented', as used in the passage ?

- (a) compressed (b) protracted
- (c) abated (d) underpinned

10. Which of the following is the most appropriate synonym of the word 'perpetuated', as used in the passage ?

- (a) repatriated (b) eternalized
- (c) extirpated (d) expunged

Passage-2

In a painting by the 18th-century French artist Chardin, two young children are sitting down to eat. Their table is set in the kitchen of a great house, with pots and pans hanging on the walls, but it is elegantly laid. There is a cloth on the table, and two grand chairs for the children to sit at as they use their silver cutlery under a maid's supervision. It is 1740, and they are learning to eat. Or rather, they are learning table manners.

Where does food end and etiquette begin? Table manners define the meaning of a meal. Eating is a physical need, but meals are a social ritual. The 150th anniversary of Mrs. Beeton's book *Household Management* this autumn draws attention to this weird and wonderful world of manners. In many ways it is a very modern book: Mrs. Beeton's recipes and kitchen tips are the kind of thing you still get in cookery books today. Maybe her language is a bit clinical: there's a chapter on how to cook "quadrupeds". But the one thing that truly places the book in the past is its advice on table manners.

At a dinner party, "the lady begins to help the soup commencing with the gentlemen on her right and on her left, and continuing in the same order till all are served. It is generally established as a rule, not to ask for soup or fish twice, as in so doing, part of the company may be kept waiting for the second course." The complex rules set out by Mrs. Beeton still exist (at a formal hall high table at an Oxbridge college, say), but even at the smartest restaurants, the rigorous order of Mrs. Beeton's dining table is rarely preserved nowadays.

It was, in fact, the culmination of hundreds on years of changing manners. The children learning their table etiquette in Chardin's 1740 painting are in the avant-garde of a cultural revolution. Cutlery, as opposed to eating with your fingers; sitting up straight in a high-backed chair; these were innovations in the way people defined themselves at table in 18th-century Europe. New meals were even invented specifically as occasions for polite manners: the English tea time dates from the 1700s and is richly illustrated in paintings by Hogarth and Devis. They show the stylised rituals of pouring the tea and holding the delicate porcelain cup. Europeans in the middle ages had little ceremony when it came to food. Their manners consisted of making sure they didn't get too greasy when tearing meat with their fingers. Chaucer's 14th-century Canterbury Tales portrays an elegant prioress as a mistress of medieval manners: "At meat well y-taught was she withal; She let no morsel from her lips fall, Ne wet her fingers in her sauce deep; Well could she carry a morsel and well keep That no droppe ne fell upon her breast."

This is the height of British table manners five centuries before Mrs. Beeton, and Chaucer, of course, is laughing at this over-refinement.

Go back thousands of years to the early Homo sapiens who lived at Cheddar Gorge, and gnawed bones found in the cave suggest the kind of mealtimes that were enjoyed here. Oh, some of those gnawed bones are human by the way. And a cup formed from a human skull has also been found.

The rich courtly gear of a Saxon king found at Sutton Hoo, meanwhile, includes a massive cauldron and drinking horns, suggesting the importance of feasting to our ancestors. But there is nothing to indicate any refinement – there is no Sutton Hoo toothpick. Only in Renaissance Europe do paintings and artefacts reveal the dawn of table manners: just to contemplate the extreme beauty and fragility of a 16th-century Venetian wine glass is to realise how sophisticated the parties were where such miraculous ware was used. Today, it might seem as though we have returned to the sloppiness of medieval feasting, or even Cheddar Gorge. Barbecued wings and legs eaten with your hands, burgers, crostini, pizza. The finger foods of the world merge in a great casual banquet, often eaten in front of the TV. Only at restaurants is some semblance of high dining still maintained. And yet, in truth, the rise of table manners shapes our lives as firmly as it did those children painted by Chardin. We still see straight-backed chairs and laid-out cutlery as essential to a "proper" meal. We still drink out of individual glasses. We may go to Starbucks instead of rushing

home for a traditional English tea, but the consumption of a latte is a stylised act. As Mrs. Beeton said, all creatures eat, but "only man dines". Etiquette has changed radically but it always exists. In manners as in recipes, we are not so far as we might think from her well-regulated world.

- It can be inferred that Oxbridge College is taken as an example of
 - an extremely fashionable place.
 - an institute marked by academic excellence.
 - a venue marked by regulations and formalities.
 - a place where table manners were born.
- Why does the author take the example of the 18th century painting at the beginning of the passage ?
 - The painting dates back to circa 1740-a time when sophistry in society was at its peak.
 - The theme of the painting is very close to what the author discusses in the passage.
 - The painting is an epitome of Renaissance art.
 - The painting depicts a typical scene of domestic serenity.
- What was the attitude of Europeans in the middle ages towards table manners ?
 - They were not too fussy about it and were concerned with only basic hygiene.
 - They had an elaborate set of rules and regulations.
 - A major portion of their diet consisted of meat.
 - They made fun of over-refinement and sophistry in culinary habits.
- Why does the author consider Mrs. Beeton's book outdated ?
 - Because the book has just celebrated its 150th anniversary this autumn.
 - Because the language is a bit too clinical and is different from what is used nowadays.
 - Because the book was at the avantgarde of a cultural revolution – the Renaissance.
 - Because the book advises on elaborate table manners, which are rarely followed nowadays.
- Which of the following best sums up the author's opinion on table manners ?
 - They are a think of the past and people rarely follow them nowadays.
 - They still remain a part of our lifestyle, though in a less pronounced manner.
 - Their significance has not changed much from the 18th century onwards.
 - They are a result of man's quest for excellence.
- Which of the following best explains the origin of the English teatime ?
 - It was a result of man's experiments with food varieties.

- (b) It was a result of man's experiments in culinary arts.
- (c) It was an outcome of man's attempts at being polished.
- (d) It was an outcome of man's attempts at improving his standard of living.
7. What does the non-existence of a Sutton Hoo toothpick indicate about its people ?
- (a) They were, by the large, barbarians, who remained untouched by civilization.
- (b) The people of this place were of a fun loving nature.
- (c) These people were epicureans and enjoyed their food and drink.
- (d) These people did not indulge in much fanfare in their culinary habits.
8. Which of the following comes closest in meaning to 'avant-garde' ?
- (a) forefront (b) developed (c) wise (d) careful
9. In context of the given passage, identify the most appropriate synonym of the word 'semblance' ?
- (a) discussion (b) vision (c) form (d) apparition
10. In context of the given passage, identify the most appropriate antonym of the word 'sloppiness' ?
- (a) dapperness (b) slovenliness (c) untidiness (d) timorousness

Passage—3

As delegates arrived in the coastal South African city of Durban on Sunday, dark skies gave way to thunder and lightning storms and torrential rain which waterlogged parts of the city's conference venue and swept away tin shacks in townships on the outskirts of the city, killing eight people. On Monday, many of the estimated 15,000 delegates packed into the main hall for the opening session, only to be kept waiting for 40 minutes by South Africa's President Jacob Zuma. Aides to the president blamed the president of Chad, saying Mr. Zuma arrived on time but was forced to wait for him. The 17th Conference of the Parties summit represents the last chance for developed nations to sign up to a second term of the Kyoto Protocol, which specifies legal limits for their carbon emissions, before it expires at the end of next year. Speaking at the opening session of the talks, Christiana Figueres, the UN's chief climate change official urged all parties to be flexible, and quoted South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela in telling them: "It always seems impossible until it's done." Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, South Africa's

Minister of International Relations, who is chairing the 12-day, 194-nation meeting, said the world's poorest countries – many of them in Africa – were dependent on swift action to stave off the catastrophic effects of global warming which affect them most. "We are in Durban with one purpose: to find a common solution that will secure a future to generation to come," she said. But within hours of the summit's start, most of the major players made clear their unwillingness to negotiate their positions.

The European Union led a positive charge to revive Kyoto, saying it would sign up for a second term. But it stipulated that the world's two biggest polluters, the United States – the sole developed country to shun Kyoto – and China – still classed as a developing country – should also agree to legally-binding emissions cuts before 2015. Artur Runge-Metzger, the EU's negotiator at the summit, said both developing and developed countries had to make firm commitments to emissions caps this year or risk the public "losing confidence in this travelling circus". The US said that China signing up to such a deal was a "basic requirement" for its own participation but even then, it offer on guarantees. Meanwhile China and the G77 group of developing nations said that they would insist on developed nations signing a second Kyoto term before agreeing to any global deals themselves. Canada has already said it will not commit to a second term and yesterday it emerged that it could withdraw before the original deal expires. The country's national broadcaster said it would be announced next month that Canada will withdraw from the protocol – a move its Green Party warned would make it a "global pariah" at Durban. Within the European union grouping, which speaks at the summit with one voice, cracks were already beginning to emerge after the publication of a report suggesting the UK was backing a controversial plan by Canada to extract oil from swampland – something the EU has made clear it is against because of the levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Those watching the talks begin said it was an inauspicious start. "It is headed towards a real impasse in Durban, frankly, there is no way to gloss over it," one veteran participant said. "There are very few options left open to wring much out of the meeting unless the position of these major countries softens considerably."

1. What is the central idea of the passage ?
- (a) The passage talks about the rift between developed and developing nations, regarding the second term of the Kyoto Protocol.

- (b) To find a common solution that will secure a future to the generations to come
- (c) To throw light on the 17th conference on Global Warming that was held in Durban.
- (d) The passage revolves around the South African government's seriousness about the second term of the Kyoto Protocol.
2. What does the word "global pariah" mean in the context of Canada in the passage ?
- (a) Global outcast
(b) Global tyrant
(c) Global leader
(d) Global phenomenon
3. What do you infer when Christiana Figueres quotes Nelson Mandela and says "It always seems impossible until it's done" ?
- (a) That signing of the protocol by all the nations seems to be an uphill task until it is done.
(b) That agreeing upon a specific legal limit of carbon emission may seem to be impractical and impossible but only till the time we decide to do it.
(c) That finding an agreement between developing and developed nations seems to be a hurricane task until it is reached to.
(d) That making China and US sign the second term of Kyoto Protocol might seem to be an impossible task until it's done.
4. What according to the USA is an important and necessary condition for it to consider signing the second term of the Kyoto protocol ?
- (a) The USA wants a commitment from all the developing nations towards signing the second term of the Kyoto protocol.
The USA wants a commitment from China toward reducing its green house emissions.
The USA wants China to agree to the specified legal limit of emissions mentioned in this term of the Kyoto protocol.
5. The USA wants China to sign the second term of the Kyoto protocol before it can consider signing it. Which of the following led to the emergence of disagreement within the European Union ?
- (a) The report indicating the support of UK to the Canadian plan of extracting oil from swampland which will generate greenhouse gases.
(b) The rift between developing and developed nations over the emission as European Union consists of developing and developed nations.
(c) European Union is divided over the specified legal limits of emission.
(d) European Union is divided over the signing of second term of Kyoto protocol.

6. According to ArturRunge-Metzger, what should be done so that people take these conference seriously ?
- (a) The participating countries should accept the legal limits of emissions.
(b) The participating countries should sign the protocol.
(c) The participating countries should make commitments to emission caps this year.
(d) The participating countries should agree on urging each other to reduce emissions.
7. According to the chairperson of the conference, what is the purpose of the meeting ?
- (a) Defining the level of the limit on emission
(b) Finding a solution acceptable to all countries for securing the future.
(c) Finding an agreement between developed and developing nations.
(d) None of these
8. On the basis of the passage what do you think is correct regarding the focus of the first term of the Kyoto protocol ?
- (a) The first term focused on safeguarding itself from being shunned by developed countries like the USA.
(b) The first term focused on emission cuts for developing nations such as China.
(c) The first term didn't focus on making the limits of carbon emissions legally binding.
(d) The first term focused on the signing of the protocol by the developed nations.
9. "Neither the US nor China _____ to take the onus of signing the Protocol first." Select the most appropriate option out of the given four options for filling the blank in the above mentioned sentence.
- (a) have want (b) will wants
(c) want (d) wants
10. Identify the antonym of the word 'veteran'?
- (a) novice (b) trained (c) bold
(d) sincere

Passage-4

Women must make their voices heard in climate negotiations. The role of women as agents of change in their homes, places of work and communities is often underplayed. Yet their role is critical: Women understand the inter-generational aspects of climate change and sustainable development. We women think in time horizons that span the lives of our children and grandchildren. We need to use this understanding to influence the political process and to inject a much needed sense of urgency into the climate change negotiations.

Time is not on our side; report after report has shown this. This is not a trade discussion and we cannot wait until the next meeting or the meeting after that to take action. Time is running out for the planet. 2020 is too late to put a legally binding agreement in place. A legal framework with clear and common rules to which all countries are committed is critically important. It is the only assurance we have that action will be taken to protect the most vulnerable.

Climate change is a matter of justice. The richest countries caused the problem, but it is the world's poorest who are already suffering from its effects. The international community must commit to righting that wrong.

We know that in continents like Africa, where women are responsible for 60-80% of food production, unpredictable growing seasons and increased incidence of droughts and floods place women, their families and their livelihoods at risk. All over the world are adapting to these changes, showing incredible resilience in the face of crop failures, water shortages and increases in environment-related diseases such as malaria. They are growing different crops, planting trees, harvesting rainwater and growing fodder for livestock to minimize the impacts of climate change. We need to continue to support women to be innovative, creative and resilient in a climate-constrained world as we strive to ensure equitable solutions to the climate problem.

But we also need to see the value of women as drivers of economic growth — as educators, careers, farmers, entrepreneurs and above all, as leaders. A recent World Bank report found that “women now represent 40% of the global labor force, 43% of the world's agricultural labor force, and more than half the world's university students. Productivity will be raised if their skills and talents are used more fully.” The report also found that eliminating the barriers that discriminate against women could increase labor productivity by as much as 25% in some countries. Clearly we need to harness the contribution of women if we want to find our way out of the current economic recession and if we want to embrace inclusive, sustainable green growth. Last month, in remarks made at the International Forum on Women and Sustainable Development in Beijing, ShaZuhang, Secretary General of the 2012 U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development, said “in many countries women are the champions of the green economy, practicing sustainable agriculture, nurturing our natural resources, and promoting renewable energy.” Around the world women are showing leadership and championing change, often due to more progressive

policies and a greater social inclusion. Their voice and leadership on climate change can result in a low-carbon revolution for the 21st century that is sustainable and equitable.

We can have a future where economic growth is not proportional to greenhouse gas emissions and where, for example, off-grid energy solutions could enable the 1.3 billion people without access to electricity to reach their full potential by providing access to affordable and sustainable energy technologies. At present burning kerosene for light and cooking over open fires damages women's health and limits their ability to engage in other work or education because they spend hours collecting wood.

It also costs them a lot of money — up to 20% of their weekly expenditure. Solar panels, improved cooking stoves and LED lights can transform lives, create jobs and contribute to our collective low-carbon future and are clear examples how intelligent climate change policies do not lead to a gray and dull existence but the opposite: They lead to a brighter future.

I encourage all leaders to highlight the importance of gender. We need to secure stronger references to the gender dimensions of climate change in the texts, institutions and mechanisms agreed by Parties to the Convention. Leaders informed by the experience of grassroots women from around the world can and must make a difference. I call on women to speak out and lead the way. We cannot wait, we have to act. Our children's and grandchildren's future is at stake.

1. What can be inferred from the phrase “The international community must commit to righting that wrong?”

- (a) The international community must make amends to the wrong that it has done.
- (b) The international community must stop the people who are doing wrong.
- (c) The international community must know what is right and what is wrong.
- (d) None of these

2. “It is the only assurance we have that action will be taken to protect that most vulnerable.” The term vulnerable refers to

- (a) climate
- (b) human civilization
- (c) planet Earth
- (d) emissions

3. The richest countries caused the problem, but it is the world's poorest who are already suffering from its effects. Which of the following is the problem caused by the richest countries?

- (a) Disruption of peace
- (b) Higher emissions leading to global warming
- (c) Unwise use of natural resources

- (d) Higher consumption of food grains leading to droughts
4. What does the phrase “gray and dull” mean in the passage ?
- (a) Anything which is not very clear and attractive
 (b) Deprived of technological advances and comforts
 (c) Without proper lighting
 (d) Anything which is outdated and redundant.
5. Replace the word ‘mechanisms’ in the passage by an appropriate synonym
- (a) machines (b) mechanics
 (c) methods (d) maximization
6. Where did ShaZuhang highlight the importance of the role played by women in climate change?
- (a) International Forum on Women and Sustainable Development
 (b) In her research article based on climate change
 (c) In a conference based on climate change
 (d) The 2012 U.N. Commission’s Meeting
7. What can be inferred from the line “We women think in time horizons that span the lives of our children and grandchildren?”
- (a) Women love their children and grandchildren more than themselves that is why they think about them first.
 (b) Women are far sighted and think about things with a perspective of their effects on future generations.
 (c) Women don’t trust their future generations and want to ensure that everything is right.
 (d) Women consider the future to be more important than the present.
8. Which of the following is incorrect?
- (a) Women’s role is crucial in climate change negotiation.
 (b) The richest countries of the world are behind the root cause of climate change.
 (c) In continents like Africa, women are responsible for 60-80% of food production.
 (d) A legally binding agreement should be upright by 2020.

Passage - 5

It is the atheistic existentialist movement, propagated in France in the 1940s and 50s, that is the reason for the common usage of existential nihilism in the popular consciousness even today in the twentieth century. Jean-Paul Sartre's definition for the revolution was that, "existence precedes essence," which removes any scope for establishing

an essential self or a human nature. When we abandon illusions, life is shown to us as nothing; and for the existentialists, nothingness is the source of not only absolute freedom but also existential horror and emotional anguish. Nothingness reveals each individual as an isolated being "thrown" into an alien and unresponsive universe, banned unto eternity from knowing why so yet required to create meaning. It's a situation that's too bizarre. Writing from the enlightened viewpoint of the bizarre, Killian Camus observed that Risyphus' predicament, sentenced to eternal, futile struggle, was an excellent metaphor for a human's being [The Myth of Risyphus, 1942]. The unifying thought in the literature of the existentialists is dealing with the emotional turmoil and pain arising from our coming face to face with nothingness, and they spent a lot of energy evaluating and tacking the question of whether surviving it was possible. Their answer was a qualified "Yes," suggesting a formula of passionate commitment and impassive stoicism. In retrospect, it was an anecdote hinted with desperation and frustration because in a weird world there are absolutely no guidelines, and any course of action is ridden with problems. Passionate commitment, whether it is to conquest, create, or for any other thing, is in itself futile. Enter nihilism.

Camus, like the other existentialists, believed that nihilism was the most vexing problem of the twentieth century. He does argue passionately that individuals could tolerate with grace its corrosive effects, his most famous works belie the extraordinary difficulty he confronted in developing a credible case. In *The Stranger* (1942), for example, Mersailles has rejected the existential suppositions on which the uninitiated and weak rely. Just moments before his execution for a gratuitous murder, he discovers that life alone is reason enough for living, a *raison d'etre*, however, that in context seems hardly convincing. In *Caligula* (1944), the mad emperor tries to escape the human jeopardy by dehumanizing himself with acts of senseless violence, fails, and furtively arranges his own assassination. *The Plague* (1947) shows the futility of doing one's best in an absurd world. And in his last novel, the short and sardonic, *The Fall* (1956), Camus posits that everyone has bloody hands because we are all responsible for making a sorry state worse by our inane action and inaction alike. In these works and other works by the existentialists, one is often left with the impression that living genuinely with the meaninglessness of life is impossible. Camus was fully aware of the pitfalls of defining existence without meaning, and in his philosophical essay *The Rebel* (1951) he faces the problem of nihilism head-on. In it, he describes at length how metaphysical collapse often ends in total negation and the of nihilism, characterized by profound

hatred, pathological destruction, and incalculable violence and death.

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1. With which of the following is the author least likely to agree with :
 - (a) Nothingness is the source of every emotion, good or bad
 - (b) Living life genuinely with the purposelessness of life is not impossible
 - (c) Passionate commitment and impassive stoicism are the foundation through which human life can derive meaning
 - (d) Camus believed that nihilism was the most vexing problem of the twentieth century.
2. This passage is likely to be a piece of an article from
 - (a) A scholarly treatise
 - (b) An article from a journal on existentialism
 - (c) A newspaper article
 - (d) An excerpt from a book titled "Meaning of life"
3. What does the word "raison d'etre" mean?
 - (a) Hope of living
 - (b) Happiness in life
 - (c) Reason for being
 - (d) Purpose of other's existence
4. Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?
 - (a) Human self is immaterial, valueless and nihilism is the only reality.
 - (b) It is possible to endure the corrosive effects of nihilism by the formula of passionate commitment and impassive stoicism.
 - (c) Nihilism will emerge victorious in the long run.
 - (d) Existentialists were successful in elucidating the principles of nihilism, and showing that human life will eventually, endure the corrosive effects of nihilism.
5. Which paragraph/sentence should come next to the last line of the passage?
 - (a) Since Nietzsche's compelling critique, nihilistic themes—epistemological failure, value destruction, and cosmic purposelessness—have preoccupied artists, social critics, and philosophers
 - (b) While nihilism is often discussed in terms of extreme skepticism and relativism, for most of the twentieth century it has been associated with the belief that life is meaningless,
 - (c) Existential nihilism begins with the notion that the world is without meaning or purpose.
 - (d) In one form, "nihilist" is used to characterize the postmodern person as a baffled being or into a deep resentment that often explodes in violence.

Passage - 6

A major obstacle in using human mesenchymal stem cells (hMSCs) to treat a variety of diseases has been successfully overcome by a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. The team led by Dr. Abhijit Majumder from the institute's Department of Chemical Engineering found hydrogel plate made of polyacrylamide was a

perfect replacement for conventionally used plastic culture plates. Unlike the plastic plates, the hydrogel ensured that stem cells multiplied and retained the stem cell-like nature (stemness) for up to 51 days and differentiated into bone, cartilage or fat cells.

When grown on plastic culture plates, the mesenchymal stem cells become large and flat, and also irregular in shape. The cells stop multiplying and growing (reach senescence) after a certain number of cell divisions. While only limited number of mesenchymal stem cells can be obtained from the body, a large number of cells is required for clinical applications. The only way to increase the number in the lab is to allow them to multiply. But multiplication to reach the desired numbers is currently not possible using plastic culture plates. **And that is where the team's success with hydrogel substrate to grow the cells holds great promise.**

"The problem becomes particularly acute in elderly patients as fewer number of mesenchymal stem cells can be recovered," he says. "We did see senescence setting in at an early stage itself (day 5-6) and gradually increasing when plates were used. But in the case of gel, there was an increase in senescence around day six but it remained constant after that," says Dr. Majumder. "Traction reduced, and the proliferative nature of stem cells got prolonged when we used the gel." Mesenchymal stem cells adhere to the substrate and the cells tend to contract, causing traction force to set in. The traction force applied by cells increases with stiffness of the substrate on which it is grown.

Substrate stiffness, possibly via modulating cellular traction, determines how long the stem cells maintain their stem-like nature. Plastic plates have greater stiffness (in gigapascals), while gel used in the experiments have only 5 kPa. "When we used gels that are too soft (1-2 kPa) stem cells failed to proliferate. Cells started dividing as we increased the stiffness of the gel. But beyond 5 kPa, the cell spread area [size] got affected and the ability to maintain proliferation was compromised," says Sanjay K. Kureel from IIT Bombay and first author of the paper.

When mesenchymal stem cells derived from umbilical cord were cultured on plastic plates and gel, the cells lost their morphology and entered senescence much earlier in the case of plastic plates. Similar results were seen in the case of mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow.

Words: 463

1. What is the primary purpose of the passage?
 - (a) To explain the obstacles encountered while culturing stem cells
 - (b) To enumerate the various media used for stem cell culture
 - (c) To differentiate between substrate stiffness of different culture media

- (d) To draw a comparison between hydrogel and plastic culture plates
2. With which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
 - (a) Senescence increases faster in plastic plates
 - (b) Multiplication is possible using plastic culture plates
 - (c) The traction force applied by cells decreases with stiffness of the substrate on which it is grown.
 - (d) Substrate stiffness, determines how fast cells maintain their structure.
 3. What is the tone of the passage?
 - (a) Analytical
 - (b) Factual
 - (c) Narrative
 - (d) Descriptive
 4. What should the author be trying to narrate in the next paragraph?
 - (a) We could show that physical microenvironment is associated with senescence.
 - (b) This becomes particularly important when we seek to treat patients who are more vulnerable to infection or need immediate therapy.
 - (c) Thus, by 50 days a huge difference in the doubling time was seen — 512 times more stem cells were obtained when they were cultured on gel than on plastic plates.
 - (d) While the stem cells maintained their shape and proliferative potential for 33 days and beyond when cultured on gel, the proliferative potential started to reduce after day 15 when grown on plastic plates.
 5. What is the relationship of the line in boldface?
 - (a) The second is evidence in support of the conclusion of the argument; the first is that conclusion.
 - (b) The first is evidence that seems to contradict the conclusion of the argument; the second is that conclusion.
 - (c) The first is the conclusion of the argument; the second calls the conclusion of the argument into question.
 - (d) The first is a part of the problem posed and the second is the novel solution to that particular problem

Passage -7

The common magnetic compass needle responds and gives evidence to the existence of the earth's weak magnetic field. That field is only a few hundredths of a gauss, and the location of the magnetic North and South pole is offset from the rotational axis of the earth by thousands of miles. Magnetic fields are produced by charges moving through space. Thus, since the earth has a magnetic field, the earth must have a net charge distributed inside the earth, on, or above it that generates this field as the earth rotates through space. One possibility is that this charge accumulation is due to cosmic rays and UV rays striking the molecules in the upper atmosphere. Another possibility is that a

positive and negative charge accumulation arises forms between the clouds and earth due to the friction of air and water molecules, which of course results in the formation of lightning. But, since the magnetic field of the Earth is somewhat stable, and charges in the upper atmosphere and at cloud and surface level vary greatly over a 24 hour period, it is unlikely that the source of the earth's magnetic fields is the movement of atmospheric charges. A second possibility is that a net charge separation is produced by convective movement of the molten earth's core, thus generating a somewhat stable pattern of charge separation deep within the interior of the planet. Assume that a positive charge accumulates deep within the earth, and a negative charge accumulates more superficially. The more superficial charges will have a higher tangential velocity for any given angular velocity because of being farther away from the center of the rotating-body. The positive charges that accumulate in the center of the earth will have a correspondingly lower tangential velocity. Thus, the earth should develop a net magnetic field because of the greater magnetic field produced by the negative charges on the surface compared to the smaller magnetic field opposing it developed from the positive charges rotating a slower speed internally. Again, the outer shell distribution of negative charge, and an inner core positioning of positive charge will result in the negative charges producing a N-S pole in the opposite direction to the N-S pole generated by the positive charges in the center of the earth. But, because of the difference in the tangential velocity of the inner charge and outer charge, the magnetic field generated by outer, faster moving, charges will produce a net magnetic field. The mechanism of producing this charge separation may be the movement of the magma against the crust. The friction of the two layers moving against each other may allow a net charge to develop between these two layers.

Words: 449

1. What is the primary purpose of the passage?
 - (a) To show that though it is weak yet, there exists a magnetic field on earth
 - (b) To enumerate how a magnetic field is produced
 - (c) To show the mechanism of charge production in north and south pole
 - (d) To hypothesize why a magnetic field exists on earth
2. With which of the following is the author least likely to agree with?
 - (a) The earth has a weak magnetic field
 - (b) Magnetic north and south pole are the same as the rotational axis of the earth
 - (c) Movement of charges creates a magnetic field
 - (d) Accumulation of charges forms lightning
3. According to the author "charge separation" occurs due to:

- (a) Because of the greater magnetic field produced by the negative charges on the surface compared to the smaller magnetic field opposing it
 - (b) Because charges in the upper atmosphere and at cloud and surface level vary greatly over a 24 hour period
 - (c) Because earth's molten core has convective movements
 - (d) Because superficial charges will have a higher tangential velocity for any given angular velocity
5. Give a suitable title for the passage:
- (a) Geomagnetism
 - (b) Charges and Magnetic field
 - (c) Core concerns
 - (d) Magnetic field generation
5. What should the author be trying to narrate in the next paragraph after the passage ends?
- (a) The next question is how charge could separate in a conductive medium such as molten iron at the center of the earth.
 - (b) Earth's magnetic field is also known as the geomagnetic field
 - (c) Our planet's magnetic field is in a constant state of change, say researchers who are beginning to understand how it behaves and why
 - (d) They've also learned what happens during a magnetic flip. Reversals take a few thousand years to complete, and during that time-contrary to popular belief-the magnetic field does not vanish.

Passage - 8

Yet some dynamic force a poet must have, some general human inspiration of which he is the supreme exponent; or else he cannot rank with the highest. Kalidasa is the great, the supreme poet of the senses, of aesthetic beauty, of sensuous emotion. His main achievement is to have taken every poetic element, all great poetical forms, and subdued them to a harmony of artistic perfection set in the key of sensuous beauty. In continuous gift of seizing an object and creating it to the eye he has no rival in literature. A strong visualizing faculty such as the greatest poets have in their most inspired descriptive moments, was with Kalidasa an abiding and unflinching power, and the concrete presentation which this definiteness of vision demanded, suffused with an intimate and sovereign feeling for beauty of color and beauty of form, constitutes the characteristic Kalidasian manner. He is besides a consummate artist, profound in conception and suave in execution, a master of sound and language who has molded for himself out of the infinite possibilities of the Sanskrit tongue a verse and diction which are absolutely the grandest, most puissant and most full-voiced of any human speech, a language of the Gods. The note struck by Kalidasa when he built Sanskrit into that palace of noble sound, is the note which meets us in almost all the best work of the classic literature. Its

characteristic features of style are a compact but never abrupt brevity, a soft gravity and smooth majesty, a noble harmony of verse, a strong and lucid beauty of chiseled prose, above all an epic precision of phrase, weighty, sparing and yet full of color and sweetness. Moreover it is admirably flexible, suiting itself to all forms from the epic to the lyric, but most triumphantly to the two greatest, the epic and the drama. In his epic style Kalidasa adds to these permanent features a moral than Miltonic fullness and grandiose pitch of sound and expression, in his dramatic an extraordinary grace and suavity which makes it adaptable to conversation and the expression of dramatic shade and subtly blended emotion.

With these supreme gifts Kalidasa had the advantage of being born into an age with which he was in temperamental sympathy and a civilization which lent itself naturally to his peculiar descriptive genius. It was an aristocratic civilization, as indeed were those which had preceded it, but it far more nearly resembled the aristocratic civilizations of Europe by its material luxury, its aesthetic tastes, its polite culture, its keen worldly wisdom and its excessive appreciation of wit and learning. Religious and ethical thought and sentiment were cultivated much as in France under Louis XIV, more in piety and profession than as swaying the conduct; they pleased the intellect or else touched the sentiment, but did not govern the soul.

1. What is the theme of the passage?
 - (a) To praise Kalidasa
 - (b) To compare Kalidasa with his contemporaries
 - (c) To talk about the age in which Kalidasa lived
 - (d) To elaborate the gifts of Kalidasa
2. With which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
 - (a) No other poet is better than Kalidasa
 - (b) Kalidasa's use of Sanskrit is peerless
 - (c) Kalidasa was inspired by Milton
 - (d) Had Kalidasa been born in modern times he would have achieved greater success.
3. What does the author mean by these lines "Religious and ethical thought and sentiment were cultivated much as in France under Louis XIV, more in piety and profession than as swaying the conduct; they pleased the intellect or else touched the sentiment but did not govern the soul."
 - (a) Morality was preached at that time
 - (b) Religious thought considered immorality to be a sin.
 - (c) Not believing in morality led to downfall of the civilization
 - (d) People talked about morality but did not believe in it
4. What is the tone of the passage?
 - (a) Laudatory
 - (b) Sarcastic
 - (c) Cynical
 - (d) Pessimistic

5. If the passage is extended further, which line would come after the last line?
- (a) He came when the daemonic orgy of character and intellect had worked itself out and ended in producing at once its culmination and reaction in Buddhism.
- (b) Valmiki, Vyasa and Kalidasa are the essence of the history of ancient India; if all else were lost, they would still be its sole and sufficient cultural history.
- (c) It was bad taste to be irreligious, but it was not bad taste to be sensual or even in some respects immoral.
- (d) Yet the unconquerable monogamous instinct of the high-class Hindu woman seems to have prevented promiscuous vice and the disorganization of the home which was the result of a similar state of society in ancient Rome, in Italy of the Renaissance, in France under the Bourbons and in England under the later Stuarts.

Solutions

Passage-1

1. c The pattern of suicides in Kashmir is different in the sense that women, and that too from the rural areas, are most prone to it. Refer to the lines “Throughout the world, it’s found that suicide rates are the highest among men and more intense in urban areas, but in the Valley the reverse is true.” He cited the raging conflict as the underlying factor. The problem is grave amongst widows who, after losing their husbands, the sole bread earners of the family, have to single-handedly take care of the children. The lack of financial and emotional support on the part of the families and society has put these widows in peril.”
2. d Zeheeda’s case is a specific one and it is mentioned (along with the reason as to what ‘broker her’) right at the beginning. Option (b) is the reason behind the general prevalence of suicide cases among women in Kashmir and is not the ‘immediate reason’ behind Zaheeda’s case. Refer to the lines “The night before she burned herself...this small thing apparently broke her.”
3. a The answer can be inferred from this line from the last paragraph. “But the infection had, in fact, set in and the family did not have the money for powerful antibiotics that could give her the chance here was to survive”. The infection that had set in was nothing else but sepsis, which is described in the first part of the last paragraph. Thus, options (c) and (d) are

- virtually the same. Option (a) is not at all related to the case of Zaheeda.
4. c The answer is clearly given in the first paragraph. ‘Matches and cooking fuel sustain life’ and yet they are used in committing suicide in the Kashmir valley, as was the case in Zaheeda’s example. This is the irony.
5. b The false hopes springs from the fact that ‘Even badly burnt and infected patients can speak almost up to the hour of their death’. Option (a) might seem close as Zaheed’s son ‘felt’ that his mother was getting better. But then it could only be what he felt and not what was really happening. Moreover, he was just being hopeful.
6. d In the 4th paragraph, the author describe the plight of women in Kashmir. The study by Medecins Sans Frontieres points out how women here are among the worst sufferers of sexual violence in the world. Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Chechnya are mentioned to place the degree of this suffering in a proper respective. This makes option (d) the answer. Option (b) can be eliminated as being ‘similar’ can be too vast a concept and can imply similarities in many aspects.
7. a The main reason behind this problem in the loss of support of a life-partner. The problem is augmented because of the inability or unwillingness of the in-laws and parents. Added to this is the burden of supporting children, it is also clear that most widows do not remarry (given in the penultimate paragraph). The entire issue would be mitigated to a great extent if widows were to remarry. Option (b) can be eliminated as nowhere is it stated in the passage that it is illegal for widows to remarry. Hospitals and medical care also do not attack the root cause of suicide but might only salvage lives in cases of failed attempts.
8. c Where Zaheeda was treated has not been mentioned in the passage. What we know is that Dr. Nadeem belongs to SMHS hospital (from the last part of the 5th paragraph where it is clearly stated ‘Dr. Nadeem of the SMHS hospital).
9. c ‘Augment’ means to make greater, more numerous, larger, or more intense <the impact of the report was augmented by its timing>. ‘Abate’ means to reduce in degree or intensity. Thus, option (c) is the correct choice. ‘Protracted’ means prolonged. ‘Underpinned’ means supported.
10. b ‘Perpetuate’ means to make something such as a bad situation, a belief, etc. continue for a long time. Thus, ‘eternalize’ is its synonyms. ‘Repudiate’ means to reject or deny. ‘Extirpate’ means to destroy or get rid of something that is bad or not wanted. ‘Expunge’ means to erase or get rid of.

Passage—2

1. c The key to this question lies in the 3rd paragraph, where the author talks about how the elaborate advice on table manners given in the book is mostly a thing of the past. Nowadays, they are followed only in very formal occasions/venues. Oxbridge is taken as an example of such a place.

2. b the painting depicts a scene of two young children being given lessons on table manners. The author discusses table manners. Its various stages and its significance in today's society. It can be easily understood that the painting, therefore serves as a sort of introduction to the passage. This makes option (b) the answer.

3. a The answer to this question is very clearly given in these lines from the 5th paragraph. 'Europeans in the middle ages had little ceremony when it came to food. Their manners consisted of making sure they didn't get too greasy when tearing meal with their fingers.' Option (c) might look enticing as 'meal' is exemplified as a part of their meals; but then this does not answer the question, which is about their attitude towards food and option (c) is only a piece of data. Option (d) can also be ruled out as it was Chaucer who was making fun. Further, not being too concerned about rigid rules does not mean making fun of these rules.

4. d The answer to this question is directly stated in the last sentence of the 2nd paragraph 'But the one thing that truly places the book in the past is its advice on table manners.' The reason for this is clearly mentioned in the next paragraph. Option (a) is factually correct but this fact has no connection whatsoever with why the author things the book is a thing of the past. The same explanation holds true for option (b).

5. b This questioned can be answered from a reading of the fifth paragraph, where the author says that table manners may seem to have faded away from our lives, but they still remain important to us. The concept has changed radically, but we still continue to retain a connection between them and certain things (like 'latte', 'straight-backed chairs' etc which are taken as stylish). Option (a) may seem close but this opinion applies to the advice on elaborate table manners that the book by Beeton describes.

6. c The answer can be inferred from this line from the Fourth paragraph - 'New meals were even invented specifically as occasions for polite manners; the English tea time dates from the 1700s'. This line implies that in his quest for table manners (which can be termed being polished), man also developed new meals which are manifestations and are suitable for

that purpose. In fact, the author calls this attempt at being 'polite' a 'cultural revolution'. The English Tea time and its accompaniments is a result of this 'revolution'.

7. d The Sutton Hoo examples is taken by the author to point out that during and before the middle ages humans beings did not bother much about elaborate table manners. The finding of a drinking horn and a cauldron suggests the importance of feasting in their culture. The non-existence of a tooth pick simply suggests that they did not care much about culinary etiquette. However, it would be too far-fetched to call them barbarians or untouched by civilization. This makes option (d) the answer.

8. a The word means-'the advance group in any field, especially in the visual, literary, or musical arts, whose works are characterized chiefly by unorthodox and experimental methods.' Even from the context of the sentence it is quite clear that the children were at the forefront of a 'cultural revolution'.

9. c 'Semblance' is the given context means outward and often specious appearance or show; form.

10. a 'Sloppiness' refers to untidiness. Thus, 'dapperness' which means neat, trim and tidy in appearance is the correct antonym.

Passage—3

1. c Option (c) is the right answer as the passage revolves around describing 17th conference on Global Warming that was held in Durban. Option (a), (b) and (d) can be eliminated as they discuss just one aspect of the passage.

2. a Pariah means outcast. Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. b The first paragraph clearly states that the 17th conference on global warming is the last chance for developed countries to sign the 2nd phase of the Kyoto Protocol that focuses on legal restrictions on the countries' carbon emission. The second paragraph further states that Christiana Figueres urged everyone to be flexible. Option (b) is the correct answer as Christiana Figueres wants that countries to be flexible. Option (c) and (d) can be eliminated as Christiana Figueres's speech did not focus on developed or developing countries or China and the US.

4. d The fourth paragraph clearly states "The US said that China signing up to such a deal was a "basic requirements" for its own participation." Thus, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. a Refer to the last paragraph of the passage "cracks were already beginning to emerge after the publication of a report suggesting the UK was backing

a controversial plan by Canada to extract oil from swampland.” Thus, option (a) is the correct answer.

6. c The third paragraph clearly states— “ArturRunge-Metzger, the EU’s negotiator at the summit, said both developing and developed countries had to make firm commitments to emission caps this year or risk the public “losing confidence in this travelling circus”. Thus, option (c) is the correct answer.

7. b The second paragraph states “MaiteNkoana-Mashabane, who is chairing the meeting, said “We are in Durban with one purpose: to find a common solution that will secure a future to generations to come”.

8. c First para states “The 17th Conference of the Parties summit represents the last chance for developed nations to sign up to a second term of the Kyoto Protocol, which specifies legal limits for their carbon emissions, before it expires at the end of next year.” Options (a) and (b) can be eliminated as they are specific to the US and China. Option (d) can also be eliminated as it cannot be inferred from the passage.

9. d When two subjects are connected with either-or, neither-nor, the verb should follow the number of the proximal (second) subjects. If the second subject is plural, the verb should be plural and vice versa.

10. a ‘Veteran’ refers to a person who has a lot of experience in a particular area or activity. Thus, ‘novice’ is its antonym.

Passage-4

1. a “Righting the wrong” is a phrase which means “to make amends to the wrong that one has done.” In the context of the passage, the international community must make amends to the wrong mean that it has done which has led to climate change.

2. c the second paragraph clearly state that the time is running out for the earth is the one referred to as ‘vulnerable’.

3. b Option (b) is the correct answer as the problem that has been caused by the richest countries is higher emission rate which in turn has led to global warming.

4. b Although, the literal meaning of ‘gray and dull’ is something which is not clear and attractive, in the context of the passage it implies that if we focus on greener methods to protect environment we might not necessarily have to settle with technically lesser advanced means and will not have to compromise on comforts. The passage also presents the example of LED lights that are not only environment friendly but also a better medium of light.

5. c ‘Mechanism’ refers to structure, means, process of method of something.

6. a Refer to the lines “Last month, in remarks made at the international Forum on Woman and Sustainable Development in Beijing, ShaZuhang, Secretary General of the 2012 U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development, said ‘in many countries women are the champions of the green economy, practicing sustainable agriculture, nurturing our natural resources, and promoting renewable energy.”

7. b From the given sentence, it can be inferred that women are far sighted and think about things with a perspective of their effects on the future generations.

8. d Refer to the line “Time is running out for the planet. 2020 is too late to put a legally binding agreement in place.”

Passage - 5

1. Answer: C

Explanation: Option a) Nothingness is the source of every emotion, good or bad can be inferred from the line 6 of the passage "When we abandon illusions, life is shown to us as nothing; and for the existentialists, nothingness is the source of not only absolute freedom but also existential horror and emotional anguish." Option b is correct as it is stated in the lines 30 "one is often left with the impression that living genuinely with the meaninglessness of life is impossible." which is the same as "Living life genuinely with the purposelessness of life is not impossible". Option c Passionate commitment and impassive stoicism are the foundation through which human life can derive meaning is the statement with which the author is least likely to agree with because it is mentioned in the lines 14 to 18 that "Their answer was a qualified "Yes," advocating a formula of passionate commitment and impassive stoicism. In retrospect, it was an anecdote tinged with desperation because in an absurd world there are absolutely no guidelines, and any course of action is problematic. Passionate commitment, be it to conquest, creation, or whatever, is itself meaningless. Enter nihilism." Option d is a statement with which the author agrees because in line 20 it is stated that "Camus, like the other existentialists, was convinced that nihilism was the most vexing problem of the twentieth century."

2. Answer: A

Explanation: The answer is option a because a scholarly treatise is a "systematic exposition or argument in writing including a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached," The passage is not on existentialism but on nihilism so, option b is not the answer. It is not an article from a newspaper as it discusses the various aspects of different types of philosophies in great depth and does not make for light reading as one Would like to read in a newspaper, additionally the author's style of

argumentation makes the passage more suited to be from a scholarly treatise. Option d is not the answer because d) An excerpt from a book titled "Meaning of life" is incorrect as the passage deals in great depth about the theories of dealing with the futility and nothingness of such as nihilism.

3. Answer: C

Explanation: The word "raison d'etre" is used in the line 24 "Just moments before his execution for a gratuitous murder, he discovers that life alone is reason enough for living, a raison d'etre, however, that in context seems scarcely credible." A person's raison d'etre is their purpose or reason for living; It's why they do things. In French, raison d'etre literally means "reason for being."

4. Answer: C

Explanation: Option c can be inferred from the passage. Option a) Human self is immaterial, valueless and nihilism is the only reality is incorrect because in line 4 it is mentioned that ""existence precedes essence," which removes any scope for establishing an essential self or a human nature!". Option b) It is possible to tolerate with grace the corrosive effects of nihilism by the formula of passionate commitment and impassive stoicism is incorrect because in line 11 to 18 "The unifying thought in the literature of the existentialists is Sealing with the emotional turmoil and pain arising from our coming face to face with nothingness, and they spent a lot of energy evaluating and tackling the question of whether surviving it was possible/Their answer was a qualified "Yes," advocating a formula of passionate commitment and impassive stoicism. In retrospect, it was an anecdote hinted with desperation because in an absurd world there are absolutely no guidelines, and any course of action is problematic. Passionate commitment, be it to conquest, creation, or whatever, is in itself futile. Enter nihilism." The author clearly states that it was a qualified yes which could not be validated, and was tinged with the desperation of finding an answer, so stoicism and passionate commitment were not the answer.

c) Ultimately, nihilism will emerge victorious in the long run is correct as it is mentioned in the last few lines, that "Camus was fully aware of the pitfalls of defining existence without meaning, and in his philosophical essay *The Rebel* (1951) he faces the problem of nihilism head-on. In it, he describes at length how metaphysical collapse often ends in total negation and the **victory of nihilism**, characterized by profound hatred, pathological destruction, and incalculable violence and death".

d) Existentialists were successful in elucidating the principles of nihilism, and showing that human life will eventually, endure the corrosive effects of nihilism, because it is written in lines 19 to 24 that "Camus, like the other existentialists, was

convinced that nihilism was the most vexing problem of the twentieth century. Although he argues passionately that individuals could endure its corrosive effects, his most famous works betray the extraordinary difficulty he faced building a convincing case." This shows that the corrosive effects of nihilism could not be endured.

5. Answer: D

Explanation: Option a) Since Nietzsche's compelling critique, nihilistic themes—epistemological failure, value destruction, and cosmic purposelessness—have preoccupied artists, social critics, and philosophers is not the answer because Nietzsche's name has not been mentioned in the last few lines. Option b) While nihilism is often discussed in terms of extreme skepticism and relativism, for most of the 19th century it has been associated with the belief that life is meaningless is not the answer because 20th century is mentioned in the first few lines of the passage like "It is the atheistic existentialist movement, propagated in France in the 1940s and 50s, that is the reason for the common usage of existential nihilism in the popular consciousness even today- in the twentieth century. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that this will be referred to in the last lines of the passage. Option c) Existential nihilism begins with the notion that the world is without meaning or purpose is incorrect because existential nihilism has already been mentioned in the second paragraph. Option d) In one form, "nihilist" is used to characterize the postmodern person as a baffled being or into a deep resentment that often explodes in violence." as in the last few lines it is mentioned that the describes at length how metaphysical collapse often ends in total negation and the victory of nihilism, characterized by profound hatred, pathological destruction, and incalculable violence and death". Victory of nihilism is explained further by option d by elaborating the two forms of nihilism.

Passage - 6

1. Answer: D

Explanation: The primary purpose of the passage is not option a. To explain the obstacles encountered while culturing stem cells because that is mentioned only in the first paragraph. Option b. To enumerate the various media used for stem cell culture is incorrect as the passage talks about plastic culture plates and hydrogel plates. Option C. To differentiate between substrate stiffness of different culture media is incorrect as substrate stiffness as a parameter has only been, mention in the third paragraph. Option d. To draw a comparison between hydrogel and plastic culture plates is correct because throughout the passage the author has compared the efficiency of hydrogel plates, in the first paragraph "**Unlike the plastic plates**, the hydrogel ensured that stem cells multiplied and retained the stem cell-like nature

(sternness) for up to 51 days and differentiated into bone, cartilage or fat cells." In the second paragraph, "And that is where the team's success with **hydrogel substrate** to grow the cells holds great promise." In the third paragraph "We did see senescence setting in at an early stage itself (day 5-6) and gradually increasing when plastic plates were used. But in the case of gel, there was an increase in senescence around day six but it remained constant after that". Therefore, d is the primary purpose of the passage.

2. Answer: A

Explanation: Option a is correct as it is mentioned in the third paragraph, "We did see senescence setting in at an early stage itself (day 5-6) and gradually increasing when plastic plates were used. But in the case of gel, there was an increase in senescence around day six but it remained constant after that," says Dr. Majumder. Option b Multiplication is possible using plastic culture plates is incorrect as it is mentioned that "But multiplication to reach the desired numbers is currently not possible using plastic culture plates." Option c is incorrect as it is mentioned that "The traction force applied by cells increases with stiffness of the substrate on which it is grown." Option d is incorrect because **"Substrate stiffness, possibly via modulating cellular traction, determines how long the stem cells maintain their stem-like nature."**

3. Answer: B

Explanation: The tone of the passage is factual as the author has stated core facts in the passage. Option b is correct. Option a is incorrect as the **analytical passages** generally deal with the analysis of ideas/issues/ events or detailed examination of the pros and cons of a situation.

Option c. Narrative is incorrect as it is the tone of storytelling. Option d. Descriptive passages generally describe an event/a person/a place. Thus, option d is also incorrect.

4. Answer: D

Explanation: Option a We could show that physical microenvironment is associated with senescence, is an extension of another topic but not of the line with which the passage ends. **"When mesenchymal stem cells derived from umbilical cord were cultured on plastic plates and gel,** the cells lost their morphology and entered senescence much earlier in the case of plastic plates. Similar results were seen in the case of mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow. The passage has not talked about senescence being present in a physical microenvironment, option d is better as it addresses the concern raised in the last line of the passage as to what were the similar effects that were observed. Options b This becomes particularly important when we seek to treat patients who are more vulnerable to infection or need immediate therapy is incorrect as this is not

addressed in the last line of the passage. The last few lines have talked about "When mesenchymal stem cells derived from umbilical cord were cultured on plastic plates and gel, the **cells lost their morphology and entered senescence much earlier in the case of plastic plates.** Similar results were seen in the case of mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow." Option c Thus, by 50 days, a huge difference in the doubling time was seen — 512 times more stem cells were obtained when they were cultured on gel than on plastic plates is incorrect, since thus is used there should be some reference of numbers in the last lines of the passage but no reference is present. The author ends the passage with the lines "Similar results were seen in the case of mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow". Option d, while the stem cells maintained their shape and proliferative potential for 33 days and beyond when cultured on gel, the proliferative potential started to reduce after day 15 when grown on plastic plates is correct as it shows which **similar results.**

5. Answer: D

Passage - 7

1. Answer: D

Explanation: Option a is incorrect because a. To show that though it is weak yet, there exists a magnetic field on earth is the primary purpose of only the first paragraph of the passage. Option b is incorrect as the author is not enumerating (stating or listing) how a magnetic field is produced. He is explaining and giving reasons as to why a magnetic field is present on earth and which factors could be the reasons for its presence. Option c is incorrect because the author talks about N-S pole in the last few lines "Again, the outer shell distribution of negative charge, and an inner core positioning of positive charge will result in the negative charges producing a N-S pole in the opposite direction to the N-S pole generated by the positive charges in the center of the earth" to show that **"The friction of the two layers moving against each other may allow a net charge to develop between these two layers."** Option d is correct as the author is trying to show us by various hypotheses why a magnetic field exists on earth and that opposite charges through various mechanisms may be responsible for the production and maintenance of such a field.

2. Answer: B

Explanation: Option a is true and is not the answer. The common magnetic compass needle responds and gives evidence to the existence of the earth's weak magnetic field. Option b is the answer as the author mentions in the last line of the first paragraph that "the location of the magnetic North and South pole is offset from the rotational axis of the earth by thousands of miles." Option c Movement of charges creates a magnetic field, is

mentioned in the passage as it is written that, "Magnetic fields are produced by charges moving through space. Thus, since the earth has a magnetic field, the earth must have a net charge distributed inside the earth". Option d is correct as "One possibility is that this charge accumulation is due to cosmic rays and UV rays striking the molecules in the upper atmosphere. Another possibility is that a positive and negative charge accumulation arises forms between the clouds and earth due to the friction of air and water molecules, which of course results in the formation of lightning." Therefore, charge accumulation forms lightning.

3. Answer: C

Explanation: Option a is incorrect because the question clearly asks about charge separation whereas option a. Because of the greater magnetic field produced by the negative charges on the surface compared to the smaller magnetic field opposing it answers **why a net magnetic field** exists on earth. Option b is incorrect, because charges in the upper atmosphere and at cloud and surface level vary greatly over a 24 hour period is the reason for not stating that the source of earth's magnetic fields is the movement of atmospheric charges as is mentioned in line11 of the passage "since the magnetic field of the Earth is somewhat stable, and charges in the upper atmosphere and at cloud and surface level vary greatly over a 24 hour period, it is unlikely that the source of the earth's magnetic fields is the movement of atmospheric charges." Option c is correct as it is clearly mentioned in the passage that "A second possibility is that a net charge separation is produced by convective movement of the molten earth's core, thus generating a somewhat stable pattern of charge separation deep within the interior of the planet. Option d Because superficial charges will have a higher tangential velocity for any given angular velocity is incorrect as it is the explanation that the author gives to show why the earth has a magnetic field." The more superficial charges will have a higher tangential velocity for any given angular velocity because of being farther away from the center of the rotating body. The positive charges that accumulate in the center of the earth will have a correspondingly lower tangential velocity. Thus, the earth should develop a net magnetic field because of the greater magnetic field produced by the negative charges on the surface compared to the smaller magnetic field opposing it developed from the positive charges rotating a slower speed internally.

4. Answer: A

Explanation: The correct title should refer to earth and how its magnetic field is generated. Option a is the best title as the passage is talking about geo magnetism that is the earth and its magnetic field. Option b and d are general options not referring to

earth at all. So, these titles are incorrect as charges and magnetic field imply that only positive and negative charges are being discussed with no reference to earth. Magnetic field generation is occurring with respect to earth in the passage but it is not mentioned in option d. Option c is ' «.incorrect because the author has not talked about just the core and its problem in the passage, he has made more reference to the magnetic field of the earth.

5. Answer: A

Explanation: The passage ends with "The mechanism of producing this charge separation may be the movement of the magma against the crust The friction of the two layers moving against each other may allow a net charge to develop between these two layers." Option a The next question is how charge could separate in a conductive medium such as molten iron at the center of the earth is correct as the author has successfully shown why a net charge exists and now he moves on to the next question as to how charge separation occurs in a conductive medium such as molten iron, so he moves on to a more detailed version of the above statement. Option b is incorrect because it is another name for the earth's magnetic field and this line should have present in the beginning of the passage and not after it, because in the passage the author has discussed in detail mechanisms responsible for production of the earth's magnetic field, it is highly unlikely for him to restart with the basics of earth's magnetic field in the next paragraph, This could have been the introductory line to the passage but not the next line in the line of thought of the author. Option c Our planet's magnetic field is in a constant state of change, say researchers who are beginning to understand how it behaves and why is also an opening line for the passage as the author has already begun to answer how it behaves hence, this is an incorrect option. Option d They ' ve also learned what happens during a magnetic flip. Reversals take a few thousand years to complete, and during that time-contrary to popular belief the magnetic field does not vanish is incorrect as it addresses a completely new topic magnetic flip which has not been referred to.

Passage -8

1. Answer: D

Explanation: Option a is correct but incomplete because the author has methodically outlined all the gifts, skills and genius of Kalidasa, it is not simple praise, it is praise of his talent with reasons to justify the praise. Option b is out of scope of the passage. Option c is incorrect as it just the theme of the second paragraph not the entire passage. Option d is correct as the author has systematically, elaborates the gifts of Kalidasa so much so that in the first line of the second paragraph he has mentioned the age in which

Kalidasa lived to also, be one of the many gifts of his." With these supreme gifts Kalidasa had the advantage of being born into an age with which he was in temperamental sympathy and a civilization which lent itself naturally to his peculiar descriptive genius." These supreme gifts refer to almost all the lines of the first paragraph.

2. Answer: B

Explanation: Option a. No other poet is better than Kalidasa may seem correct due to the way the author has written the passage but in the second line of the passage it is mentioned that "Kalidasa is the great, the supreme poet of the senses, of aesthetic beauty, of sensuous emotion," which means that according to the author Kalidasa is the greatest in one genre of poetry (dealing with emotions, aesthetics etc. but to say that he is the greatest poet would be extrapolating the author's sentences beyond scope. Option b Kalidasa's use of Sanskrit is peerless, is correct as it is mentioned in the 11th line of the passage that "a master of sound and language who has molded for himself out of the infinite possibilities of the Sanskrit tongue a verse and diction which are absolutely the grandest, most puissant and most full-voiced of any human speech, a language of the Gods." In the last few lines of the first paragraph, it is mentioned that "Kalidasa adds to these permanent features a more than Miltonic fullness and grandiose pitch of sound and expression," but this does not mean Kalidasa was inspired by Milton, it may be possible that the author is comparing the works of both Milton and Kalidasa and addresses the similarity in the style of writing in their works. Option d Had Kalidasa been born in modern times he would have achieved greater success is incorrect as it is mentioned in the second paragraph that the age in which Kalidasa was born also worked as a blessing for him. "With these supreme gifts Kalidasa had the advantage of being born into an age with which he was in temperamental sympathy and a civilization which lent itself naturally to his peculiar descriptive genius" which means that that particular age was especially suited to the style and type of writing that Kalidasa had.

3. Answer: D

Explanation: Option a is incorrect as the author says, that morality was preached at that time that means people talked about morality but it did not govern the soul which means that though they talked about morality, they did not abide by it. Option b. Religious thought considered immorality to be a sin is incorrect because the author says that "Religious and ethical thought and sentiment were cultivated much as in France under Louis XIV, **more in piety and profession than as swaying the conduct;**" which means swaying of conduct (immorality) was not considered a sin. Option c has not been mentioned. Option d People talked

about me but did not believe in it is correct as this is what the author means when he says that moral principles did not govern the soul.

4. Answer: A

Explanation: The tone of the passage is laudatory, as through the entire first paragraph the author has praised the work of Kalidasa. Options b, c and d are incorrect as the author has not expressed any sarcasm, cynicism (a tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen) or pessimism (negative sentiment).

5. Answer: C

Explanation: Option A and B are incorrect because if he refers to Kalidasa then, this line should come in the introduction when the author is introducing the subject he wishes to elaborate on. Option b is incorrect. Option a refers to Buddhism which has no connection with the last few lines of the passage which talk about morals not governing the soul and only pleasing the intellect, this thought is directly extended in option c which says "It was bad taste to be irreligious, but it was not bad taste to be sensual or even in some respects immoral" and is the correct answer. Option d "Yet the unconquerable monogamous instinct of the high-class Hindu woman seems to have prevented promiscuous vice and the disorganization of the home which was the result of a similar state of society in ancient Rome, in Italy of the Renaissance, in France under the Bourbons and in England under the later Stuarts" gives the reason as to why in a generation which did have much morals, disorganization of home did not occur, this reason according to the author is due to the unshakeable belief of the high class Hindu woman in monogamy, hence this option should come after option c as c is directly extending the last lines of the passage whereas, option d uses Yet to change the direction of the thought. So, to complete the thought option c should come before option d.