

**NLAT 2020 – UG
BATCH 2 QUESTION PAPER**

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PASSAGE 5:

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question relying on what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. If more than one option provides a partial answer to the question, choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

Over the last few months, there has been much discussion of leadership during the pandemic. One pattern that emerged early on was that women leaders were seen to have handled the crisis remarkably well.

We analysed how leaders around the world reacted to the early days of the pandemic to see whether differences in performance can be explained by differences in policy measures adopted by male and female leaders.

There are far fewer female-led countries in the world when compared to male-led. Just 10% in our sample of 194 countries have women as national leaders. Given the small number of female-led countries, the most appropriate way to consider their performance is to match them with “similar” male-led countries.

Hong Kong, which is led by a woman, recorded 1,056 cases and four deaths while Singapore, which has a similar economy and comparable demographic characteristics but is led by a man, recorded 28,794 cases and 22 deaths in the same period. Similarly, Norway, led by a woman, had 8,257 cases and 233 deaths, while Ireland, led by a man, recorded 24,200 cases and 1,547 deaths. Taiwan, led by a woman, recorded 440 cases and seven deaths while South Korea, led by a man, had 11,078 cases and 263 deaths.

Countries led by women have performed better, especially in terms of deaths and this is true whether we consider the nearest comparable nation, the nearest two, three or even five. Belgium is an outlier, having appeared to perform badly on cases and deaths while led by a woman. But despite its inclusion, the overall results regarding female-led countries stand.

Analysing what might cause this differential performance, we find that the female-led countries locked down significantly earlier than the male-led countries. On average, they had 22 deaths fewer at lockdown when compared to their male counterparts.

We considered whether these results might imply that women leaders are more risk-averse.

Indeed, in the current crisis, several incidents of risky behaviour by male leaders have been reported. Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro dismissed Covid-19 as "a little flu or a bit of a cold" and UK prime minister Boris Johnson said he "shook hands with everybody" on a hospital visit. Both men subsequently contracted the virus.

However, this is a simplistic explanation. Locking down early posed a significant risk to their economies, but women leaders did it regardless.

Another explanation of gender differences in response to the pandemic is to be found in the leadership styles of men and women. Studies suggest that men are likely to lead in a "task-oriented" style and women in an "interpersonally-oriented" manner.

This has been in evidence during this crisis in the decisive and clear communication styles adopted by several women leaders, whether it be Norway's prime minister Erna Solberg speaking directly to children or Ardern checking in with her citizens through Facebook lives.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Women leaders handled coronavirus better than their male counterparts – and the data shows that", by Supriya Garikipati and Uma S Kambhampati, *Scroll.in*, available at: <https://scroll.in/article/971955/women-leaders-handled-coronavirus-better-than-their-male-counterparts-and-the-data-shows-that>]

1. Which among the following is the name of an Indian author's trilogy of books set around the time of the 'Opium Wars' that resulted in China having to make several commercial and legal concessions in Hong Kong to the British?
 - (a) Indian trilogy
 - (b) Ibis trilogy
 - (c) Stranger trilogy
 - (d) GameWorld trilogy

(Answer: (b))

2. If the "death rate" is the percentage of deaths per total number of cases and assuming that the average death rate for all women-led countries is the same as the average of the three women-led countries for which case and death numbers are provided in the passage above, then what is the difference between the average death rate for all women-led countries and the death rate for South Korea?

- (a) Less than 2%.
- (b) Between 2% and 3%.
- (c) No difference.
- (d) Data insufficient.

(Answer: (a))

3. Assume Article 352 of the Constitution provides that “[i]f the President is satisfied that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of India or of any part of the territory thereof is threatened, whether by war or external aggression or armed rebellion, he may, by Proclamation, make a declaration to that effect in respect of the whole of India or of such part of the territory thereof as may be specified in the Proclamation”. The President of India decides to declare under Article 352 that a ‘grave emergency’ exists in India when the COVID-19 pandemic breaks out. Can the President do so under Article 352?

- (a) Yes, since the pandemic poses a threat to the security of India.
- (b) Yes, since the pandemic is an unprecedented situation and the President should be able to do what they think is right to protect the country.
- (c) No, since the pandemic does not fall within the reasons for which an emergency can be declared under Article 352.
- (d) No, since the pandemic is not a serious and permanent situation.

(Answer: (c))

4. Which among the following can be inferred from the authors’ statements in the passage above?

- (a) Women leaders tend to get a larger percentage of the public vote when they win elections.
- (b) Women leaders seem risk-averse when it comes to human life but more risk-taking when it comes to the economy.
- (c) Both, (a) and (b).
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b).

(Answer: (b))

5. Who among the following became the first ‘chairman’ of the bank earlier called ‘Imperial Bank of India’?

- (a) Chanda Kochhar
- (b) Shikha Sharma
- (c) Naina Lal Kidwai

(d) Arundhati Bhattacharya

(Answer: (d))

6. If the “case rate” is the percentage of the number of cases to the total population of the country, then what is the difference between the average case rate in the three women-led countries for which case and death numbers are provided in the passage above and the death rate in Singapore? The “death rate” is the percentage of deaths per total number of cases. Assume that the populations of the three women-led countries are as follows: Hong Kong: 7.5 million, Norway: 5.5 million, Taiwan: 23 million.

- (a) More than 0.5%
- (b) Data insufficient
- (c) Less than 0.1%
- (d) Between 0.1% and 0.5%

(Answer: (c))

7. Which among the following is an assumption made by the authors in the passage above?

- (a) More countries should be led by female leaders.
- (b) Locking countries down earlier leads to a lower number of case and death rates than locking down later.
- (c) Women leaders are usually better-educated than male leader.
- (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (b))

8. Shortly after reading news reports of how Boris Johnson “shook hands with everybody” on a hospital visit, the Chief Minister of an Indian State, on a visit to see a friend who was undergoing treatment at a government hospital in their State, shook hands with everybody. The friend the Chief Minister had gone to meet was a senior member of the state’s council of ministers. At that time, the Union government’s rules, which apply to all states, set out that people should maintain at least a six-foot distance from others in public places. This rule had been applied in the State by the State government as well. The President declares under Article 352 of the Constitution that the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Assume Article 352 provides: “Where any State has failed to comply with or to give effect to any directions by the Union, the President can declare that the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution”. Was the President’s declaration valid?

- (a) No, since a government hospital is not a public place.

- (b) Yes, since the Chief Minister of the State had violated the Union government's rules.
- (c) Yes, since the Chief Minister of the State was setting a bad example for the people of the State.
- (d) No, since it was the Chief Minister who had violated the rules in a personal capacity. The State Government had applied the Union government's rules in the State.

(Answer: (d))

9. The authors say that women leaders are likely to lead in an "interpersonally-oriented" manner. Which of the following statements would accurately describe women leaders who lead in this manner?

- (a) They like to interact with others more than is required.
- (b) They tend to make greater use of their communications skills in their leadership style.
- (c) They avoid engaging directly with citizens.
- (d) They find it difficult to make hard decisions because of their inter-personal orientation.

(Answer: (b))

10. Which among the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments in the passage above?

- (a) Women leaders are nominated and not elected to head their countries.
- (b) Each person needs to take personal responsibility to protect themselves and others in situations like the pandemic.
- (c) The three female-led countries for which case and death numbers have been provided in the passage above were all led by men before the pandemic broke out.
- (d) Locking down does not present any risk to the economy.

(Answer: (d))

PASSAGE 6

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question relying on what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. If more than one option provides a partial answer to the question, choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

With ‘vaccine nationalism’ increasingly becoming a concern, several international organisations (including the World Health Organization (the “**WHO**”)) have put their diplomatic weight behind the COVID-19 Global Access (COVAX) initiative. This encourages countries to sign up to a deal that is designed to make 2 billion doses of vaccines available by the end of 2021. So far, 172 countries including the UK (but not the USA) have signed up to the initiative.

Because no one knows which vaccine will be effective, some wealthy countries are hedging their bets by buying up vast quantities of multiple vaccines, before scientists have completed clinical trials and proven the vaccines to be safe or effective. In total, wealthy countries have already signed deals to secure 3.7 billion doses from western drug-makers, according to a report last week. The United Kingdom has been the worst offender, with a recent estimate showing it has pre-ordered enough vaccine for five doses per person. Last week, Canada also signed deals with two companies to secure a guaranteed 88 million doses, enough for every citizen to be vaccinated at least twice.

While the WHO and its main partners — the global vaccine alliance GAVI and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations — are certainly to be congratulated for launching this initiative, it is not the cure-all some are claiming it to be, for several reasons.

The first challenge is that the UK, Canada and recently Australia have signed their own independent deals with manufacturers. This could place additional strain on what are expected to be already limited supplies. These deals are expected to further drive up prices, potentially making them even more unaffordable for many poorer countries.

A second problem is the commitment for 2 billion doses by the end of 2021 is far too small, given most of the vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials require up to two or three doses to confer immunity. When divided among all the countries that have signed up to COVAX, it means each country will receive a very small supply. As a result, this could encourage governments to seek out additional independent deals to meet the demands of their populations.

A third issue is that while COVAX is wisely not putting all its eggs in one basket — it is supporting nine vaccines in development and evaluating another nine for possible support — the 2 billion doses will likely be sourced from multiple manufacturers. As a result, some governments may not be happy with the vaccine they are allocated under the plan, particularly if one vaccine appears to be more effective than another or is produced by a country they don’t trust.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Why 'vaccine nationalism' could doom plan for global access to a COVID-19 vaccine", by Adam Kamradt-Scott, *Down To Earth*,

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/why-vaccine-nationalism-could-doom-plan-for-global-access-to-a-covid-19-vaccine-73259>]

1. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument in the passage above?
 - (a) Vaccine prices are completely within the control of the manufacturer and the WHO has no control over a manufacturer's decision to increase or reduce prices.
 - (b) Some vaccines require more doses to confer immunity than others.
 - (c) Vaccine prices are controlled by the WHO and no manufacturer may increase their prices once they have sold vaccines a certain price to any one country.
 - (d) Many countries are trying to strike independent deals with vaccine manufacturers which COVAX cannot prevent.

(Answer: (c))

2. Assume the COVAX Charter, which binds all countries that are a part of the COVAX initiative, provides that "no country that is a member of the COVAX initiative may enter into agreements to buy vaccines from any vaccine manufacturer unless COVAX has allocated any vaccines to that country, and that country tells the COVAX authorities in writing that it does not wish to receive the COVAX-allocated vaccine." Based on the information in the passage above, has the UK violated the COVAX Charter?
 - (a) Yes, since the UK's entering into agreements with vaccine manufacturers will push up prices for other countries.
 - (b) Yes, since COVAX has not allocated vaccines to any country yet and the UK has entered into agreements to buy vaccines from vaccine manufacturers.
 - (c) No, since the UK acted in its own best interests, which any country is free to do.
 - (d) No, since the UK is not a part of the COVAX initiative.

(Answer: (b))

3. Which of the following is not one of the functions of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of India?
 - (a) Testing of new drugs.
 - (b) Approval of new drugs and clinical trials.
 - (c) Production of vaccines.
 - (d) Banning of drugs and cosmetics.

(Answer: (c))

4. What is the main point of the author in the passage above?

- (a) There is a very high likelihood that a safe and effective vaccine will be available for distribution to all countries that are members of the COVAX initiative before the end of 2020.
- (b) The United Nations should ensure all countries of the world are its members.
- (c) The WHO is an ineffective organisation.
- (d) That the COVAX initiative by itself may not be able to solve most of the problems that countries face in obtaining vaccines.

(Answer: (d))

5. What is the total amount that countries have committed towards the COVAX initiative as an initial set of upfront payments?

- (a) \$ 20 billion
- (b) \$ 23 billion
- (c) \$ 53.5 billion
- (d) The amount has not been disclosed.

(Answer: (d))

6. Assume country 'X' purchases 1.6 billion doses of vaccine 'A', of which 3 doses have to be given to each person to confer immunity, and 1.5 billion doses of vaccine 'B', of which 2 doses have to be given to each person to confer immunity. If the total population of the country is 1.2 billion, what percentage of its population can country 'X' ensure receives the necessary doses of vaccines to confer immunity?

- (a) 50.55%
- (b) 100.99%
- (c) 99.35%
- (d) 106.67%

(Answer: (d))

7. What does the expression 'cure-all', as used in the passage, mean?

- (a) A doctor who is a generalist and can examine patients with a wide variety of illnesses.
- (b) A medicine that can supposedly cure uncurable illnesses such as AIDS.
- (c) Something that can fix any problem.
- (d) A large hospital where all illnesses are treated.

(Answer: (c))

8. The author says that “some wealthy countries are hedging their bets by buying up vast quantities of multiple vaccines, before scientists have completed clinical trials and proven the vaccines to be safe or effective”. Which of the following could form a plausible reason for the strategy used by these wealthy countries in buying multiple vaccines in such a manner:
- (a) Since the safety and effectiveness of these vaccines is yet to be proved, it is safer to buy multiple doses of all of them in the hope that one or more of the vaccines could be safe and effective.
 - (b) Since it is not sure when the vaccines currently under trials will be proven safe and effective, it is safer to buy multiple doses of all of them, so that wealthy countries are assured of receiving vaccines as soon as any of them is proven safe and effective.
 - (c) Neither (a) nor (b).
 - (d) Both (a) and (b).

(Answer: (d))

9. Country Y, a neighbour of country ‘X’, has the ability to administer 30,00,000 vaccine doses per day. If the country has only 2 types of vaccines, Vaccine ‘A’ which requires 3 doses to confer immunity (of which it has 2.3 billion doses) and Vaccine ‘B’ which required 4 doses to confer immunity (of which it has 3.4 billion doses), then in how many days will it exhaust its stock of vaccines, assuming it uses all stocks of Vaccine ‘B’ before it uses its stocks of Vaccine ‘A’?
- (a) 2 and a quarter years.
 - (b) 15 and a quarter years.
 - (c) 5 and a quarter years.
 - (d) 52 and a quarter years.

(Answer: (c))

10. Assume the United Nations Charter (the “**UN Charter**”) provides that “any member country may withdraw from any initiative of any part of the United Nations, if it can demonstrate that the initiative is compelling that member country to act against its own best interests.” The UN Charter also provides that “member countries should work in a collaborative spirit, in recognition of each other’s sovereign rights.” The WHO is a part of the UN and the COVAX initiative is an initiative of the WHO. After the vaccines are finally tested, developed and are being manufactured, the COVAX initiative allocates Russian-made vaccines to the USA. The USA sends a letter to the United Nations (the “**UN**”) which only says: “Since the COVAX

initiative is allocating vaccines manufactured in Russia to the USA, the USA withdraws from the COVAX initiative.” Can the USA do so under the provisions of the UN Charter provided above?

- (a) Yes, since the COVAX initiative should have consulted with the USA before allocating Russian-made vaccines to it.
- (b) No, since it has not demonstrated how the COVAX initiative is compelling it to act against its own best interests.
- (c) Yes, since the USA is not violating Russia’s sovereign rights by refusing to accept Russian-made vaccines.
- (d) No, since the USA should have tried the vaccines before it tried to leave the COVAX initiative.

(Answer: (b))

PASSAGE 7

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question relying on what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. If more than one option provides a partial answer to the question, choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

The National Education Policy, 2020 (the “**NEP**”) has been projected and applauded as the government of India’s resolve to expand and vitalise equitable quality public education. The document emphasises interventions in early childhood education; foundational literacy and numeracy; rearrangement of curricular and pedagogical structure of school education; reorganisation of teacher education; and a new institutional architecture for higher education.

On close scrutiny, the policy does little to address specific, well-known and endemic problems that plague India’s education system. Most of the proposed interventions appear well meaning. But because they are based on a shallow understanding of the ground realities of education in an unequal society, they could suffer deep infirmities in execution. Several innovations proposed by NEP 2020 could exacerbate existing educational challenges and perpetuate inequality.

The Right to Education Act, 2009 (the “**Act**”), established the “duty of the state” to provide elementary education for all children of India. As a result, the number of out-of-school children (aged 6-14) fell from 13 million in 2006 to six million in 2014, according to UNICEF. The NEP was expected to extend the Act to include children from preschool years to the age of 18, as was stated in the 2019 draft NEP.

The NEP, however, is silent on the Act and its relation to Article 21A of the Indian Constitution which provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to 14 as a Fundamental Right.

The fact is that the Indian state has not been able to deliver on implementing the Act over the last decade. Only 13% of schools across the country complied with the Act by the end of 2016-2017. This dropped to a mere 8% by the end of 2018-2019 with most such schools lacking separate toilets for girls and boys, drinking water facilities and required pupil-teacher ratio.

Critical past amendments to the Act have allowed children to be detained at the primary stage of education, increasing the risk of early drop-out. The Act has been reduced to a mere “right to learning” by introducing “learning outcomes” as its central objective.

With 10 lakh teacher vacancies in India’s schools and a large cadre of poorly qualified teachers, NEP 2020 was expected to implement the Supreme Court’s Justice Verma Commission recommendations. This included enhanced public investment in teacher education, strengthened institutional capacity in states and curriculum redesign to teach for diversity and inclusion. NEP 2020’s proposed single model of teacher education disregards the specific needs and concerns of diverse states and of different levels of education. It imposes a homogenised and standardised

system of preparing teachers and an over-centralised regulatory structure that is sure to exacerbate centre-state conflict.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Is the National Education Policy 2020 designed to deliver equitable quality public education?", by Poonam Batra, *Scroll.in*, available at: <https://scroll.in/article/970548/is-the-national-education-policy-2020-designed-to-deliver-equitable-quality-public-education>]

1. Which of the following provides an example most closely resembling the author's reasoning for saying that the NEP "could suffer deep infirmities in execution"?
 - (a) A proposed construction in an earthquake-prone area that does not take into account the geological features of that area.
 - (b) A policy decision of the government that has been arrived at after a close study of prevailing circumstances and conversations with stakeholders.
 - (c) A parent's decision to send their child to a particular school only after evaluating all the schools that their child could possibly join.
 - (d) A college that does not graduate students unless they successfully clear a thorough examination process.

(Answer: (a))

2. Which among the following is most accurate, based upon the information set out in the passage above?
 - (a) The author feels that the effect of critical past amendments has been to strengthen the Act's objective of providing a "right to education".
 - (b) The author feels that the effect of some past amendments has been that the Act no longer provides a 'right to education', and this is because 'learning objectives' have been made the aim of the Act.
 - (c) The author feels that the Act should have had the "right to learning" as its central objective from the outset.
 - (d) The author feels that critical past amendments to the Act have led to an increase in the number of people interested in becoming teachers.

(Answer: (b))

3. Assume there were 1.2 million schools in India at the end of 2016-2017, and this number increased by 7% each year until the end of 2018-2019, and that 35% of the schools that had complied with the Act by the end of 2018-2019 had separate toilets for girls and boys. What is the number of schools that had complied with the Act by the end of 2018-2019 and had separate toilets for girls and boys?

- (a) Between 305000 and 325500
- (b) Between 25900 and 30400
- (c) Between 45800 and 53500
- (d) Between 36400 and 39500

(Answer: (d))

4. Assume the Act provides that any parent who does not ensure their children aged six to 14 goes to school regularly, would have to pay a fine. Ramesh is a daily-wage labourer, and all the members of his family, including his two children aged 8 and 12 have to work to ensure the family has enough to eat at the end of each day. As a result, they are only able to go to school occasionally. One day, the authorities tell Ramesh he has violated the Act, and must pay a fine because his children do not go to school regularly. Has Ramesh violated the Act?

- (a) No, since it is very important his children go to work.
- (b) No, since his family would starve if his children did not work every day.
- (c) Yes, since his children do not go to school regularly.
- (d) Yes, since it is very important for the children's future that they attend school regularly.

(Answer: (c))

5. Which among the following lists persons who are all famous as prominent educationists?

- (a) Rabindranath Tagore, Jiddu Krishnamurthy and Maria Montessori.
- (b) Madhav Chavan, Maria Montessori and Kesavananda Bharati.
- (c) Kesavananda Bharati, Manmohan Singh, Madhav Menon.
- (d) Madhav Menon, Madhav Chavan, S. Ramanujan

(Answer: (a))

6. The National Education Policy, 2020 has advocated the institution of which degree programme?

- (a) Masters in Progressive Education
- (b) Bachelor of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- (c) Bachelor of Liberal Arts
- (d) Masters in AYUSH

(Answer: (c))

7. Assume the Act provides that all schools must provide separate toilets for boys and girls, that this rule applies even to those schools that only admitted either boys or girls before the Act was passed, and that no school may deny admission to any child solely for the reason that the child's family is unable to pay the child's school fees. Salma's parents wish to admit her to a very prestigious and expensive school in their neighbourhood. The school conducts an entrance examination each year which Salma appears for. The school later tells Salma's parents that she cannot be admitted to the school since they have informed the school that they are unable to pay Salma's school fees, and since the school does not have separate toilets for girls, as it used to be a boys-only school earlier. Has the school violated the Act by doing so?
- (a) Yes, since Salma's parents have put in a lot of effort in trying to ensure she can study at a good school.
 - (b) No, since the school has provided two reasons for denying Salma admission; therefore, it has not denied Salma admission solely for the reason that Salma's family is unable to pay her school fees.
 - (c) No, since each school can decide for itself which students it would like to admit.
 - (d) Yes. The school was bound to ensure it provided separate toilets for boys and girls under the Act; therefore, it has denied Salma admission solely for the reason that Salma's family is unable to pay her school fees.

(Answer: (d))

8. Which of the following is not among the matters that the author says the NEP document emphasises?
- (a) Foundational literacy and numeracy.
 - (b) Reorganisation of teacher education.
 - (c) A new institutional architecture for higher education.
 - (d) None of the above.

(Answer: (d))

9. Which of the following is the premise for the author's argument that the NEP "imposes a homogenised and standardised system of preparing teachers and an over-centralised regulatory structure that is sure to exacerbate centre-state conflict"?
- (a) That states are not concerned with ensuring that the model of teacher education is suitably customised to their specific circumstances and requirements.
 - (b) That states wish to avoid conflict with the centre at all costs.
 - (c) That states are deeply concerned with ensuring that the model of teacher education is suitably customised to their specific circumstances and requirements of different states.
 - (d) That states do not have the necessary infrastructure to educate teachers themselves.

(Answer: (c))

10. Assume that the number of teacher vacancies in India described in the passage is as of the end of 2018-2019, that in the beginning of each year new qualified teachers enter the system, who fill 50% of the vacancies and that at the end of the year, there is an additional requirement of new teachers (in addition to the existing teacher vacancies) because of new schools being established which increase the existing vacancies by 25%. If this is the case, then what would be the number of teacher vacancies in India at the end of 2020-2021?

- (a) No vacancies
- (b) 4 lakh vacancies
- (c) 6.25 lakh vacancies
- (d) 2.5 lakh vacancies

(Answer: (b))

PASSAGE 8

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question relying on what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. If more than one option provides a partial answer to the question, choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

The Delhi government has issued the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020, to boost the adoption of electric vehicles (“EVs”) in the national capital following the unsatisfactory results of the central government’s efforts.

The policy is valid for three years. It aims to speed up the pace of EV adoption, primarily in the category of two-wheelers, public and shared transport vehicles, and goods carriers. It plans to boost the adoption of battery electric vehicles (“BEVs”) so they contribute to 25% of all new vehicle registrations by 2024.

The policy proposes financial incentives, tax, and fee waivers, charging and swapping infrastructure establishment, job creation, battery cycling ecosystem, and the creation of a non-lapsable ‘State EV Fund.’

Under the policy, electric two-wheelers, e-rickshaws, and goods carriers (L5N and N1 vehicles) will receive purchase incentives of ₹30,000, while electric cars would receive incentives ranging between ₹10,000 and ₹150,000. To be eligible for these incentives, EVs must fulfil the same performance and efficiency eligibility criteria as specified in the central government’s Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (“**FAME India Phase II**”) policy.

The policy also seeks to encourage setting up private charging points (“PCPs”) at residential and non-residential premises. The state government said it would provide a grant of 100% for the purchase of charging equipment up to ₹6,000 per charging point for the first 30,000 charging points.

The Delhi government also plans to make public charging facilities accessible every three kilometres in Delhi through the policy. It also plans to focus on the reuse and recycling of EV batteries that have reached the end of their life to avoid any harmful effects on the environment. **[1]** The policy encourage reuse and setting up of recycling business in collaboration with battery and EV manufacturers that focus on ‘urban mining’ of rare materials within the battery. **[1]**

The policy will use the ‘feebate’ method to provide incentives under which inefficient, polluting vehicles are charged surcharges or fees, while efficient ones receive rebates.

An open permit will be applicable for e-autos wherein permits will be given on the first-come-first-serve basis. The state government will be looking at the substantial addition of buses to the public transport fleet in the period 2019-2022. The policy seeks pure electric buses to constitute at least 50% of all new stage carriage buses procured for the city fleet, starting with the induction of 1000 pure electric buses by 2020.

Last year, Delhi cut down the rates of charging stations for e-rickshaws and other electric vehicles. This has further incentivized the pace of EV adoption process, which in turn is likely to push consumers toward electric mobility.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Delhi Announced New EV Policy, Proposes Incentives Up to ₹150,000 for Electric Cars" by Nithin Thomas Prasad, Mercom India, available at: <https://mercomindia.com/delhi-new-ev-incentives-policy/>]

1. The sentence enclosed within '[1]' in the passage may have a grammatical error. Which of the following would be required to remove the error, if any?

- (a) Replace 'encourage' with 'encourages'.
- (b) Replace 'the' with 'this'.
- (c) Replace 'on' with 'in'.
- (d) Replace 'within' with 'inside'.

(Answer: (a))

2. Assume the Delhi Government announces an *Electric Vehicles Scheme, 2020* under which purchasers of "all electric cars, two-wheelers, e-rickshaws and good carriers" are granted a discount on the purchase price. Ashok is a resident of Delhi and has recently bought 100 electric buses for his travel business, Delhi Tours and Travels. These buses are used for transporting tourists to various heritage sites across the city along with their luggage and rations and medical equipment for tour purposes. In addition, Ashok has also purchased 20 hybrid (part electric and part fuel) two-wheelers solely to carry and transport goods across the city. Is Ashok entitled to claim a discount under the Electric Vehicles Scheme, 2020 for the 100 buses and 20 two-wheelers?

- (a) Yes, Ashok is entitled to claim a discount on both the buses and two-wheelers because he is ensuring that all vehicles in his company are environmentally friendly.
- (b) No, Ashok is not entitled to claim a discount on either the buses or the two-wheelers.
- (c) Ashok is entitled to claim a discount on the buses, but not on the two-wheelers.
- (d) Ashok is entitled to claim a discount on the two-wheelers, but not on the buses.

(Answer: (d))

3. Which of the following is the main legal instrument under which international negotiations are conducted to battle the threat of rising sea levels, increase in the incidence of extreme weather events, and desertification and the loss of biodiversity?

- (a) Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- (c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity

(Answer: (c))

4. Which of the following, if correct, would make it more difficult to achieve the purpose behind the *Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020* (the “**Policy**”)?

- (a) An increase in the price of the fuel used in electricity generation plants.
- (b) A decrease in the price of fossil-fuel-based cars in the domestic and international markets.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) or (b)

(Answer: (c))

5. As of 2018, which countries have the highest carbon dioxide emissions per capita in the world?

- (a) United States, India, China.
- (b) Germany, United States, China.
- (c) United States, Australia, Canada.
- (d) Palau, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago.

(Answer: (d))

6. Which of the following statements most accurately summarises the main aim of the Delhi Government’s policy regarding vehicular transport as described in the passage above?

- (a) The Delhi Government wants to ensure that fossil-fuel-based vehicles are penalised for operating on the roads.
- (b) The Delhi Government wants to ensure that electric cars are given preference over electric two-wheelers, e-rickshaws and goods carriers.
- (c) The Delhi Government wants to ensure that buyers have good incentives to purchase EVs as opposed to fossil-fuel-based vehicles.
- (d) The Delhi Government wants to ensure that the EV industry is propped up and subsidised to ensure more jobs.

(Answer: (c))

7. Assume that excluding BEVs, there are 810,000 new vehicle registrations in 2024. Further, assume that electric cars represent 50% of all new BEV registrations. If the government just meets its 2024 target for BEV registrations as a proportion of total registrations, and 90% of new electric cars

registered are eligible for the purchase incentive, what approximately is the minimum amount of money that the State EV Fund will have to spend on purchase incentives for electric cars in 2024?

- (a) 120 crores
- (b) 972 crores
- (c) 1200 crores
- (d) 1820 crores

(Answer: (a))

8. Assume the Delhi Government announces an Electric Vehicles Scheme, 2020, which provides “a grant of 100% for upto Rs. 30,000 for each charging point for electric vehicles available to all members of the public”. Aparna, a resident of Delhi, is looking to construct 2 charging points for Rs. 20,000 each. In order to avoid congestion, Aparna sets a condition that only residents of her neighbourhood will be allowed to access the charging points. Is Aparna eligible for the grant?

- (a) Yes, Aparna is eligible for the grant because she is constructing charging points for electric vehicles under Rs. 30,000.
- (b) No, Aparna is not eligible for the grant because the charging points are not available to all members of the public.
- (c) Yes, Aparna is eligible for the grant because she is constructing charging points available for all members of the public in her neighbourhood.
- (d) No, Aparna is not eligible for the grant because the total amount she is requesting is Rs. 40,000, which is above the limit set out in the policy.

(Correct answer: (b))

9. Which of the following policy measures, if announced by the Delhi Government alongside the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020 (the “**Policy**”) would most assist in the fulfilment of the Policy’s objectives?

- (a) A policy providing financial assistance for the building of solar-powered photovoltaic panels on residential rooftops.
- (b) A policy providing for rebate at toll booths for electric vehicles.
- (c) An increase in taxes on resale of petrol and diesel cars.
- (d) All of the above.

(Answer: (d))

10. Assume that a total of 16,000 new stage carriage buses are procured for the city fleet in 2020 and that apart from the 1000 pure electric buses procured (as stated in the passage above), all of the other buses purchased are non-electric. Also assume that starting in 2021, the Delhi Government meets its target of pure electric buses as a proportion of new stage carriage bus procurement.

Further assume that the purchase volume of new stage carriage buses increases 20% year on year. What is the minimum total number of electric stage carriage buses that the Delhi government will have purchased between the years 2020-2022 (inclusive)?

- (a) 21,120
- (b) 22,120
- (c) 29,120
- (d) 36,120

(Answer: (b))
