

English Test – 3&5

In the following questions, a sentence is given with two blanks; each blank is followed by a highlighted word. You have to identify the correct pair of words from the given options to make the sentence meaningful, if the given highlighted words are correct, then mark (E) as your answer.

Q1. A constitutional amendment was formally ratified to _____ (**obfuscate**) the judicial appointment process, a significant reform intended to enhance transparency and _____ (**prolong**) the delivery of justice.

- 1.simplify, decelerate 2.complicate, delay 3.amend, accelerate
4.streamline, expedite 5.No replacement required

Q2. The urban development ministry has launched a nationwide initiative employing innovative technologies to _____ (**measure**) the growing _____ (**production**) of single-use plastic waste in major metropolitan centers.

- 1.create, solution 2.tackle, menace 3.promote, advantages
4.disregard, convenience 5.No replacement required

Q3. In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis, several international bodies have _____ (**pledged**) significant financial assistance to _____ (**alleviate**) the widespread suffering of populations displaced by the conflict.

- 1.denied, reduce 2.promised, ignore 3.offered, intensify
4.withdrawn, exacerbate 5.No replacement required

Q4. The finance ministry introduced a new framework to bolster foreign direct investment, seeking to remove _____ (**superfluous**) regulations that previously _____ (**attracted**) international investors from entering the domestic market.

- 1.transparent, confused 2.modern, encouraged 3.beneficial, hindered
4.archaic, dissuaded 5.No replacement required

Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed. There are some blanks given in the passage. You have to find the appropriate word for the given blank and mark the corresponding option as your answer.

The Election Commission of India's (ECI) completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, brings the final tally to 7.42 crore electors, a significant drop from the 7.89 crore figure before the exercise began. While the purpose was indeed to clean up the rolls, the lived reality of the exercise, including the manner in which it had to be corrected by the Supreme Court of India, ___ (**5**) ___ the ECI's ambition to extend the SIR nationwide a matter of concern. The events in Bihar warned of the dangers of adopting a default attitude of suspicion towards the electorate. While the reasons for the deletion of 65 lakh names from the draft rolls, on ___ (**6**) ___ grounds such as death, migration, duplication and lack of enumeration, were administratively sound, the process by which they were invoked was ___ (**7**) ___. The ECI provided no consolidated list of the excluded and no meaningful prior notice, and attached no reasons to individual cases until the Court insisted on these particulars. Reports — most of the poor, the illiterate, women, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes lack the ones it did demand, including birth certificates and caste and domicile papers. A nationwide SIR conducted under the same requirements used in Bihar would

likely ___ (**8**) ___ the same risks of exclusion. Electoral management research, including studies by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, points to three practices that enhance inclusion in roll revision: door-to-door verification by enumerators to supplement self-reporting; the use of widely held identity documents, such as Aadhaar and ration cards in India, to minimise barriers for citizens without birth or caste certificates; and advance publication of reasons for proposed deletions combined with an accessible appeals process. India's prior revisions, particularly in the early 2000s, depended more extensively on local booth-level officers and physical checks, which helped to identify errors without shifting the burden entirely onto the electors. A national SIR could also draw on digital tools to ___ (**9**) ___ and publish exclusion data while ensuring physical notice at the constituency level, balancing transparency with privacy. Such measures would help the ECI ensure that no legitimate voter is excluded, especially at a time when Karnataka's Aland incident has raised sharp doubts on its technical competency.

Q5. Which of the following words most appropriately fits the blank labeled (5)?

- 1.justifies 2.delays 3.renders 4.clarifies 5.initiates

Q6. Which of the following words most appropriately fits the blank labeled (6)?

- 1.ambiguous 2.ostensible 3.controversial 4.minor 5.fabricated

Q7. Which of the following words most appropriately fits the blank labeled (7)?

- 1.transparent 2.efficient 3.democratic 4.bureaucratic 5.opaque

Q8. Which of the following words most appropriately fits the blank labeled (8)?

- 1.mitigate 2.analyze 3.eliminate 4.replicate 5.introduce

Q9. Which of the following words most appropriately fits the blank labeled (9)?

- 1.censor 2.interpret 3 consolidate 4.debate 5.dispute

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

In today's hyper-connected world, data has evolved into the most valuable economic resource, powering industries built on extracting user behaviour and preferences. Surveillance capitalism, as a business model, monetises personal information through predictive analytics and targeted advertising. Its influence extends beyond commercial decision-making, subtly shaping public opinion and consumer habits. Many digital platforms operate under opaque data-collection mechanisms, leaving users unaware of the extent of their exposure. As a result, privacy has become increasingly **tenuous**, vulnerable to continuous monitoring and algorithmic profiling.

Governments and corporations now deploy sophisticated tools that analyse digital footprints with astonishing precision. While such capabilities can enhance security, they also blur the boundaries between legitimate oversight and intrusive surveillance. Citizens unknowingly contribute data through everyday activities—from online shopping to wearable devices—creating vast behavioural maps. The challenge lies in balancing social benefits with

individual autonomy, without reducing users to mere data points. These dynamics have intensified global debates around ethical technology use and governance.

Regulatory frameworks such as the GDPR attempt to restore user control, but enforcement remains uneven across borders. Companies often reinterpret guidelines in ways that favour their business models, complicating accountability. Furthermore, cross-border data flows make it difficult to identify jurisdictional responsibility when violations occur. Some experts argue that privacy protections must be complemented by structural reforms to curb exploitative practices. Without such measures, surveillance capitalism continues to operate with **impunity**, accumulating unprecedented power over digital societies.

Public awareness is slowly rising as high-profile data breaches and whistleblower revelations expose systemic vulnerabilities. Yet many users still accept invasive terms of service in exchange for convenience, contributing to a culture of passive consent. This behavioural pattern has allowed tech conglomerates to entrench themselves deeply in social, economic, and political processes. Critics warn that unchecked data extraction threatens democratic institutions by enabling manipulation at scale. The growing tension between user rights and corporate influence remains a defining feature of the digital era.

Emerging technologies such as AI-driven surveillance, biometric tracking, and real-time data analytics demand stronger safeguards. Policymakers propose stricter transparency mandates, though implementation remains fraught with technical and political obstacles. Advocacy groups also call for public participation in shaping data-governance standards to prevent elite capture. Achieving meaningful privacy protection requires cooperation among regulators, technologists, and citizens. **Without such collective resolve, societies risk a future defined by panoptic oversight, with diminishing personal freedom becoming increasingly precarious.**

Q10.What is the overarching message of the passage?

- 1.Surveillance capitalism enhances global welfare
- 2.Privacy concerns are exaggerated
- 3.Strong collaboration is essential to protect data privacy
- 4.Technology should replace human involvement
- 5.Data extraction is necessary for progress

Q11.The word “impunity” implies that companies:

- 1.Operate without fear of penalties
- 2.Are under strict supervision
- 3.Follow transparent standards
- 4.Avoid cross-border transactions
- 5.Are losing influence

Q12.What do you understand by the above highlighted statement in the passage?

- I. If societies do not act together, constant surveillance may become widespread.
- II. Personal freedoms will immediately collapse and become completely extinct.
- III. Collective inaction could lead to a loss of privacy and autonomy in the future.

- 1.Only I 2.Both II & III 3.Only III 4.Both I & III 5.All of the above

Q13.What obstacle hampers the implementation of stronger safeguards?

- 1.Lack of advanced technology 2.Excessive transparency 3.Political and technical barriers 4.Shortage of user data 5.Corporate financial bankruptcy

Q14.What is the primary concern raised about surveillance capitalism in the passage?

- 1.It reduces technological innovation 2.It undermines individual privacy through excessive data collection 3.It slows economic growth 4.It eliminates the need for advertising 5.It prevents international cooperation

Q15.In context to the passage, which of the following options is an antonym of the word ‘tenuous’?

- I. Substantive II. Formidable III. Resilient IV. Fragile V. Inconsequential

- 1.All I, II & III 2.All II, IV & V 3.Only III 4.Both II & IV 5.None of these

Q16.In the context of the passage, which of the following statements correctly interpret why regulatory frameworks like the GDPR are considered insufficient?

- I. Enforcement varies across regions, reducing overall effectiveness.
- II. Companies manipulate or reinterpret rules in ways that suit their interests.
- III. Regulatory agencies intentionally support surveillance capitalism.
- IV. Cross-border data flows complicate accountability for violations.

- 1.Both II & IV 2.All I, II & IV 3.Only III 4.Both I & III 5.None of these

Q17.Which of the following best describes the role of emerging technologies in the context of surveillance capitalism?

- 1.They completely eliminate privacy concerns.
- 2.They necessitate stronger safeguards and collective action.
- 3.They make traditional regulation unnecessary.
- 4.They reduce the influence of corporate data collection.
- 5.They ensure that all digital platforms operate transparently.

Q18.Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- I. Over-reliance on digital platforms increases the likelihood of widespread data exploitation.
- II. Regulatory frameworks alone are insufficient to counter the influence of surveillance capitalism.
- III. Most citizens actively demand stricter data privacy laws from governments and corporations.
- IV. Cross-border data practices make enforcing privacy laws more complicated.
- V. Surveillance technologies are primarily deployed only for public welfare and never misused.

- 1.Only V 2.Both III & IV 3.All I, III & IV 4.All I, II & IV 5.All of the above

In each of the following questions, a sentence has been divided into five parts out of which one part is erroneous. You are required to choose the option which is grammatically or contextually incorrect.

Q19.The recent introduction of several complex tax reforms, **(A)** in addition to the already existing ambiguities in the policy, **(B)** have made it exceptionally difficult for both auditors and small business owners **(C)** to navigate the financial landscape without professional legal counsel **(D)**/ No error **(E)**.

- 1.B 2.C 3.D 4.E 5.A

Q20. Scarcely had he finished reading the circular **(A)** then the fire alarm started ringing loudly, **(B)** causing panic and confusion **(C)** among all the employees in the building **(D)**/ No error **(E)**.

1.B 2.C 3.D 4.E 5.A

Q21. Every one of the new digital initiatives, which aim to enhance customer experience **(A)** and streamline internal processes, have their own **(B)** dedicated project manager responsible for overseeing the implementation **(C)** and ensuring timely delivery of the promised features **(D)**/ No error **(E)**.

1.B 2.C 3.D 4.E 5.A

Q22. The bank's latest mobile application not only allows customers to check their account balances and transfer funds, **(A)** but also enables them to apply for loans, **(B)** paying utility bills, and investing in various financial products **(C)** with just a few taps on their smartphones **(D)**/ No error **(E)**.

1.B 2.C 3.D 4.E 5.A

In the following questions two words are highlighted and from the given options you have to identify the synonym for the highlighted word.

Q23. A Supreme Court ruling in October 2025 clarified the **salient** features of the new Digital Personal Data Protection Act, stressing that all data fiduciaries must adhere to the newly **codified** principles of data minimization and purpose limitation.

1.controversial, published 2.minor, disorganized 3.important, debated
4.judicial, legislated 5.prominent, systematized

Q24. The Comptroller and Auditor General's report on the stalled mega-highway project was scathing, citing **perfunctory** governmental oversight and a persistent failure to **adjudicate** land acquisition disputes as the root causes of the delay.

1.thorough, ignore 2.regular, mediate 3.cursory, settle
4.official, discuss 5.superficial, prolong

Q25. The success of the government's **nascent** scheme to integrate AI-powered soil health monitoring is entirely **contingent** upon the widespread adoption of the technology by farmers in rural areas.

1.final, reliant 2.promising, independent 3.widespread, unconditional
4.incipient, dependent 5.failing, determined

Select the phrase (STARTERS) from the given three options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.

Q26.(I) The central government has increased the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil.

(II) The decision was prompted by a recent surge in global oil prices.

(i) Following a recent surge in...

(ii) Although the central government has increased...

(iii) A recent surge in global oil prices has...

1.Only (ii) 2.Only (i) 3.Only (iii) 4.Both (i) and (iii) 5.All (i), (ii), and (iii)

Q27.(I) The education ministry introduced AI-based assessment tools in public schools.

(II) Teachers can now evaluate student performance more efficiently.

(i) As a result of the education ministry introducing AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

(ii) Despite the education ministry introducing AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

(iii) Until the education ministry introduced AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

1.Only (i) 2.Only (ii) 3.Only (iii) 4.Both (i) and (ii) 5.Both (ii) and (iii)

Q28.(I) The government has launched a new portal to streamline the process of claiming shares and dividends that have been left unclaimed.

(II) The portal is designed to enhance transparency and make it easier for investors to access their rightful assets.

(i) To enhance transparency and make it easier for...

(ii) The government's new portal launch...

(iii) Unless the process of claiming shares is streamlined...

1.Only (ii) 2.Both (i) and (ii) 3.Only (i) 4.Both (ii) and (iii) 5.All (i), (ii), and (iii)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Cryptocurrencies are decentralized digital assets that leverage blockchain technology to facilitate secure peer-to-peer transactions. Unlike conventional fiat currencies, they operate independently of central banks, engendering both autonomy and volatility. **(A)** The cryptographic **(P)** elicited of these systems render them resistant to manipulation, yet their **(Q)** skepticism nature has **(R)** underpinnings both enthusiasm and **(S)** speculative. As adoption expands, regulatory frameworks struggle to keep pace with technological innovations.

Blockchain, the foundational architecture behind cryptocurrencies, functions as a distributed ledger, recording every transaction across a network of nodes. Its immutability ensures that data cannot be retroactively altered without consensus, fostering trust among participants. However, scalability remains a persistent challenge, as increasing transaction volumes can precipitate latency and higher energy consumption. Innovations such as sharding and layer-two solutions attempt to mitigate these constraints.

The proliferation of decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms exemplifies blockchain's transformative potential beyond mere currency exchanges. Smart contracts automate complex financial agreements, obviating intermediaries _____. Yet, these systems are susceptible to code vulnerabilities, and erroneous deployments have led to significant financial losses. Consequently, developers and auditors are now pivotal in securing these nascent ecosystems.

Cryptocurrency markets exhibit pronounced volatility, driven by market sentiment, technological developments, and regulatory interventions. Institutional participation has introduced new liquidity but also amplified systemic risks. The **nascent** nature of these assets complicates valuation, as traditional metrics like earnings or cash flow are inapplicable. As such, investors must navigate an intricate interplay of speculation, innovation, and regulatory oversight.

Despite criticisms, blockchain's applications are proliferating across industries, from supply chain verification to digital identity authentication. Its potential to engender trust, efficiency, and decentralization is undeniable, yet widespread

adoption necessitates interoperability and standardized protocols. Policymakers, technologists, and financiers must collaboratively address governance, security, and scalability concerns to realize a sustainable digital economy.

Q29. Which of the following best summarizes the author's tone regarding cryptocurrencies?

1. Completely skeptical
2. Entirely uncritical
3. Optimistically cautious
4. Technologically indifferent
5. Focused on historical analysis

Q30. In sentence A, which of the following words needs to be interchanged to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct?

1. R-S
2. Both P-R and Q-S
3. Q-S
4. Both P-Q and R-S
5. All are correct.

Q31. What is the suitable title of the passage?

1. Cryptocurrencies: Trends in Online Payment Systems
2. Emerging Technologies in Finance: Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain
3. The Role of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies in Modern Finance
4. Digital Finance: Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies Transforming the Economy
5. Cryptocurrencies & Blockchain: Innovations and Challenges

Q32. Which factor is NOT mentioned as influencing cryptocurrency market volatility in the passage?

1. Market sentiment
2. Technological developments
3. Regulatory interventions
4. Investor nationality
5. Institutional participation

Q33. Which of the following sentence(s) uses the word 'nascent' in the same sense as it is used in the passage?

Sentence I: The nascent renewable energy industry is attracting significant investment from global corporations.

Sentence II: The nascent stock market crashed due to sudden investor panic.

Sentence III: Scientists are optimistic about the nascent stage of gene-editing technologies and their potential medical breakthroughs.

1. I only
2. II only
3. I and III only
4. I and II only
5. All of the above

Q34. Why are traditional valuation metrics inadequate for cryptocurrencies, according to passage?

1. Cryptocurrencies do not generate earnings or cash flow
2. They are government-issued
3. Investors rely solely on speculation
4. Market prices are fixed
5. Blockchain automates valuation

Q35. Which of the following is/are NOT inferred from the passage?

I) Cryptocurrencies operate independently of central banks but are completely immune to market risks.

II) Blockchain's immutability ensures that transactions are secure and tamper-proof.

III) Smart contracts on DeFi platforms can be prone to errors, leading to financial losses.

IV) Widespread adoption of blockchain requires standardized protocols and interoperability.

1. Only I
2. Only II
3. Both I and III
4. Both II and IV
5. Only IV

Q36. Which of the following can fill the blank as given in the passage?

1. while increasing transaction latency

2. and maintaining transparency

3. but making the system vulnerable to central bank intervention

4. and eliminating blockchain's immutability

5. while restricting access to cryptocurrencies

Q37. Which of the following is true about cryptocurrency markets and blockchain applications with respect to the passage?

I) Blockchain's immutability ensures that past transactions cannot be altered without consensus.

II) Cryptocurrencies rely entirely on central banks for stability.

III) Smart contracts automate financial agreements without intermediaries but may have code vulnerabilities.

IV) Widespread blockchain adoption requires interoperability and standardized protocols.

1. Only I
2. Only III and IV
3. Only II and IV
4. All I, III and IV
5. Only III

A sentence or a part of the sentence is highlighted. Four alternatives marked as (A), (B), (C) and (D) are given as substitutions for the highlighted part, one of which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, choose the option "No improvement is required" i.e. (E).

Q38. The research team, after conducting extensive field surveys across multiple states, **has been able to identified** several factors that contribute significantly to the decline in local biodiversity.

1. has been able to identify
2. have been able to identify
3. has been able identifying
4. had been able to identifies
5. No improvement is required

Q39. The committee, after reviewing the voluminous reports submitted by various departments over the past year, **have recommended to implement several new policies** aimed at improving operational efficiency across the organization.

1. has recommended implementing several new policies
2. have recommended implementing several new policies
3. has recommended to implement several new policies
4. have recommended that several new policies are implemented
5. No improvement is required

Q40. Despite being extremely talented and having years of experience in project management, Rajesh was often criticized **about his inability to meet** deadlines consistently, which affected his chances of promotion.

1. of his inability to meet
2. on his inability to meet
3. for his inability to meet
4. regarding his inability to meet
5. No improvement is required

1. Answer: D

The sentence talks about a **reform** intended to bring more **transparency** and improve the **speed** of justice delivery. So, both blanks should reflect **positive** and **efficiency-focused** actions.

Option d) streamline, expedite

Streamline = make a process more efficient and clear.

Expedite = speed up or facilitate faster completion.

Both words fit perfectly with the goals of a significant reform meant to **enhance transparency** and **improve the speed** of justice delivery.

a) simplify, decelerate

"Simplify" seems okay, but "decelerate" means to slow down, which contradicts the intended goal.

b) complicate, delay

Both words are negative and do not align with reform or transparency.

c) amend, accelerate

"Amend" doesn't fit well with "the judicial appointment process" — you don't amend a *process*; you amend *laws or documents*.

"Accelerate" is fine, but the pair doesn't flow naturally.

obfuscate, prolong

Both words contradict the idea of transparency and efficiency.

Final Sentence:

A constitutional amendment was formally ratified to **streamline** the judicial appointment process, a significant reform intended to enhance transparency and **expedite** the delivery of justice.

2. Answer: B

The sentence talks about an initiative using innovative technologies to address a **negative and growing problem**—that of single-use plastic waste in major cities. So, both blanks must fit a **problem-solving context**.

a) create, solution

Doesn't fit — you don't "create a solution of waste" nor is "solution" something that is *growing*.

b) tackle, menace

tackle = deal with or address a problem

menace = a threat or harmful issue

This pair perfectly matches the context of combating plastic waste.

c) promote, advantages

Illogical — plastic waste is not an advantage, nor do we promote it.

d) disregard, convenience

The ministry isn't trying to ignore the problem, and "convenience" doesn't describe the growing issue.

measure, production

Measuring production doesn't address the "growing" impact of waste.

Final Sentence: The urban development ministry has launched a nationwide initiative employing innovative technologies to **tackle** the growing **menace** of single-use plastic waste in major metropolitan centers.

3. Answer: E

The sentence as given is: "In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis, several international bodies have pledged significant financial assistance to alleviate the widespread suffering of populations displaced by the conflict."

"pledged" – This is correct. It means the international bodies have committed or promised financial support.

"alleviate" – This is also correct. It means to reduce or ease the suffering of the displaced populations.

All other options (a–d) are incorrect because they either **contradict the meaning** or make the sentence illogical:

a) denied, reduce – "Denied" contradicts the context of offering assistance.

b) promised, ignore – "Ignore" is opposite of what the sentence intends.

c) offered, intensify – "Intensify" increases suffering, which is the opposite of "alleviate."

d) withdrawn, exacerbate – Both words are negative and contradict the humanitarian intent.

Therefore the given sentence is itself correct.

4. Answer: D

The sentence talks about:

Removing certain types of regulations, and

Those regulations, **preventing or discouraging** foreign investors in the past.

So, the two blanks must logically refer to:

Negative, outdated regulations

A verb showing that those regulations discouraged investors

a) transparent, confused

Transparent regulations are good, so they wouldn't need removal.

"Confused" as a verb doesn't fit well contextually.

b) modern, encouraged

Modern regulations would not be removed.

Encouraged is opposite of what's needed.

c) beneficial, hindered

Beneficial regulations wouldn't be removed.

"Hindered" works, but "beneficial" contradicts the idea.

d) archaic, dissuaded

Archaic = outdated and negative - makes sense to remove.

Dissuaded = discouraged/prevented - fits perfectly.

superfluous, attracted

Superfluous means unnecessary, which could fit removal,

but "attracted" contradicts the issue being solved.

Final Sentence: "The finance ministry introduced a new framework to bolster foreign direct investment, seeking to remove **archaic** regulations that previously **dissuaded** international investors from entering the domestic market."

5. Answer: C

a) justifies: This means to show or prove to be right. The problematic "lived reality" of the exercise would challenge or undermine the ambition, not justify it.

b) delays: This means to make something late or slow. While the court's intervention might have caused a delay, the sentence is about the effect of the problems on the quality of the ambition, not its timing.

c) renders: This means to cause to be or become; to make. The messy reality of the exercise in Bihar **makes** the ECI's ambition a matter of concern. This word perfectly describes how one situation causes a particular quality in another.

d) clarifies: This means to make something easier to understand. The problematic execution in Bihar complicates the ambition, it does not clarify it.

e) initiates: This means to cause something to begin. The ambition already exists; the events in Bihar are not starting it.

Thus Option C) **renders**, is the correct answer.

6. Answer: B

a) ambiguous: This means unclear or open to more than one interpretation. The grounds given (death, migration) are very clear and specific, not ambiguous.

b) ostensible: This means stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so. The passage implies that while the official reasons (death, migration) seem valid, the real reasons or the application of these reasons were questionable and opaque. **Ostensible** perfectly captures this sense of an official, surface-level reason that might hide a problematic reality.

c) controversial: This means giving rise to public disagreement. While the process was controversial, the grounds themselves (like removing the deceased) are standard and not inherently controversial.

d) minor: Deleting 65 lakh names based on these grounds is a major administrative action, not a minor one.

e) fabricated: This means invented or made up. The passage suggests the process was flawed, not that the grounds themselves were complete lies. For example, people did migrate, but they may not have been given proper notice before deletion.

Thus Option B) **ostensible** , is the correct answer.

7. Answer: E

a) transparent: This means easy to perceive or understand. The sentence immediately follows by stating the ECI provided "no consolidated list... no meaningful prior notice, and attached no reasons," which is the exact opposite of transparency.

b) efficient: This means achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort. The process was flawed and required Supreme Court intervention, which is not efficient.

c) democratic: A democratic process would involve fairness, transparency, and participation, all of which were lacking according to the passage.

d) bureaucratic: While the process was carried out by a bureaucracy (the ECI), the word needed should describe the quality of the process. The key criticism here is its lack of clarity.

e) opaque: This means not able to be seen through; not transparent. As the passage explains, the process was unclear because no lists, notices, or reasons were provided. This is the perfect word to describe the lack of transparency.

Thus Option E) **opaque** , is the correct answer.

8. Answer: D

a) mitigate: This means to make something less severe or painful. A nationwide exercise would likely worsen the risks, not reduce them.

b) analyze: This means to examine in detail. The sentence is about the outcome of the exercise, which would be to reproduce the risks, not just study them.

c) eliminate: This means to completely remove. This is the opposite of the intended meaning. The concern is that the risks would be repeated, not removed.

d) replicate: This means to make an exact copy of; to reproduce. The passage argues that conducting a nationwide revision using the same flawed methods as in Bihar would **replicate**, or reproduce, the same problems of exclusion. This is the correct choice.

e) introduce: While the exercise would introduce risks to new areas, **replicate** is more precise because it emphasizes that the same risks seen in Bihar would be copied elsewhere.

Thus Option D) **replicate** , is the correct answer.

9. Answer: C

a) censor: This means to suppress unacceptable parts of something. The goal is to publish the data transparently, not to hide it.

b) interpret: This means to explain the meaning of information. While interpretation is necessary, the first step is to gather and combine the data.

c) consolidate: This means to combine a number of things into a single, more effective, or coherent whole. The suggestion is to use digital tools to gather all the separate pieces of exclusion data from various places and bring them together (**consolidate**) to publish them. This fits the context perfectly.

d) debate: This means to argue about a subject. You would debate the data after it's published, but the action described here is about preparing the data for publication.

e) dispute: This means to argue or disagree with something. The ECI would not be using tools to dispute its own data; it would be using them to organize it.

Thus Option C) **consolidate** , is the correct answer.

10. Answer: C

The passage highlights how surveillance capitalism collects and exploits personal data, creating vulnerabilities in privacy. It emphasizes that governments, corporations, and citizens must work together to establish effective safeguards, enforce regulations, and ensure ethical use of technology. The recurring theme is the need for collective action and cooperation to protect individual privacy in the digital age, rather than ignoring risks or prioritizing technology over human oversight.

Other options are incorrect because:

a) The passage does not argue that surveillance capitalism enhances welfare; it mainly critiques its risks.

b) Privacy concerns are presented as real and growing, not exaggerated.

d) Technology replacing humans is not suggested; the concern is misuse of technology.

e) Data extraction is not portrayed as necessary for progress; the focus is on its ethical and social implications.

11. Answer: A

In the passage, "impunity" refers to companies continuing their exploitative data practices without facing consequences. It conveys that these corporations can act with considerable freedom because enforcement of regulations is weak or uneven.

Other options are incorrect because:

b) "Under strict supervision" is the opposite of impunity.

c) "Follow transparent standards" contradicts the idea of acting with impunity.

d) "Avoid cross-border transactions" is unrelated.

e) "Are losing influence" is the opposite; they are actually gaining power.

12. Answer: D

The highlighted statement:

"Without such collective resolve, societies risk a future defined by panoptic oversight, with diminishing personal freedom becoming increasingly precarious."

I. "If societies do not act together, constant surveillance may become widespread."

This interpretation directly aligns with panoptic oversight, which refers to constant surveillance. The passage warns that without collective action, surveillance could become pervasive.

II. "Personal freedoms will immediately collapse and become completely extinct."

This is an incorrect inference. The passage suggests that personal freedoms will become precarious, meaning they will be at risk, but it does not imply they will immediately collapse or become completely extinct. The risk is emphasized, not an inevitable or immediate collapse.

III. "Collective inaction could lead to a loss of privacy and autonomy in the future."

This is a correct interpretation. The passage clearly links collective inaction to the potential loss of privacy and autonomy in the future.

So, the correct interpretation of the passage is reflected in I and III, which address the risk of surveillance and the loss of privacy and autonomy without action. II is incorrect because it overstates the immediacy and total collapse of freedoms.

13. Answer: C

The passage states: "Policymakers propose stricter transparency mandates, though implementation remains fraught with technical and political obstacles." This clearly identifies technical challenges and political resistance as the main hurdles in enforcing stronger privacy safeguards.

Other options are incorrect because:

a) Advanced technology is not lacking; the issue is misuse, not absence.

b) Excessive transparency is not mentioned as a problem.

d) There is no shortage of user data; in fact, data abundance is the issue.

e) Corporate bankruptcy is unrelated.

14. Answer: B

The passage highlights that surveillance capitalism monetises personal data via predictive analytics and targeted advertising, often without users' knowledge, leading to privacy vulnerabilities, algorithmic profiling, and manipulation of public behavior. The central concern is clearly the erosion of individual privacy rather than economic, technological, or international issues.

Other options are incorrect:

a) Technological innovation is not presented as being reduced.

c) Economic growth is not criticized; the focus is on ethical and privacy issues.

d) Advertising is a method used by these companies, not a problem itself.

e) International cooperation is discussed only in terms of regulatory complexity, not as the main concern

15. Answer: A

The word 'tenuous' means weak, flimsy, uncertain, or lacking strength.

So its antonyms should express strength, solidity, or firmness.

Let's evaluate each option:

I. Substantive — Correct

Opposite of insubstantial; means solid, meaningful.

II. Formidable — Correct

Implies strength, power, and solidity; opposite of weak.

III. Resilient — Correct

Means strong, able to withstand stress; opposite of tenuous.

IV. Fragile — Incorrect

This is actually a synonym of tenuous, not an antonym.

V. Inconsequential — Incorrect

Means unimportant, not strong or substantial; not an antonym.

16. Answer: B

Statement I – Correct.

The passage mentions uneven enforcement across borders, weakening regulation.

Statement II – Correct.

It states that companies reinterpret guidelines to favour their business models.

Statement III – Incorrect.

The passage never says regulatory bodies intentionally support surveillance capitalism.

Statement IV – Correct.

The passage explains that cross-border data flows create jurisdictional challenges, making accountability difficult.

17. Answer: B

The passage states: "Emerging technologies such as AI-driven surveillance, biometric tracking, and real-time data analytics demand stronger safeguards. Policymakers propose stricter transparency mandates, though implementation remains fraught with technical and political obstacles. Advocacy groups also call for public participation in shaping data-governance standards..."

This shows that while these technologies offer capabilities, they increase risks to privacy, making cooperation among regulators, technologists, and citizens essential.

a) Incorrect — technologies do not eliminate privacy concerns.

c) Incorrect — traditional regulation is still needed.

d) Incorrect — they do not reduce corporate influence; if anything, they can enhance it.

e) Incorrect — transparency is a goal, but not guaranteed.

18. Answer: D

From the passage, we can infer the following:

I. Over-reliance on digital platforms increases the likelihood of widespread data exploitation → True. The passage mentions that everyday digital activities contribute to vast behavioral maps.

II. Regulatory frameworks alone are insufficient → True. The passage highlights limitations of GDPR and the need for structural reforms.

III. Cross-border data practices complicate enforcement → True. The passage explicitly states that cross-border flows make jurisdictional accountability difficult.

IV. Most citizens actively demand stricter data privacy laws → False. The passage says public awareness is rising but many still passively accept invasive terms.

V. Surveillance technologies are only for public welfare → False. The passage emphasizes misuse and ethical concerns.

Hence, only statements I, II, and IV can be inferred.

19. Answer: B

The error is in part C: The true subject of the sentence is the singular noun "introduction" (from part A). The phrase "in addition to the already existing ambiguities in the policy" is a prepositional phrase that modifies the subject but is not part of it. The verb must agree with the main subject, "introduction." Therefore, the plural verb "have made" in part (C) is incorrect. It should be the singular verb "has made".

Correct sentence:

The recent introduction of several complex tax reforms, in addition to the already existing ambiguities in the policy, **has made** it exceptionally difficult for both auditors and small business owners to navigate the financial landscape without professional legal counsel.

20. Answer: A

The error is in part B: This sentence involves the use of correlative conjunctions with adverbs of frequency. The adverb 'Scarcely' (or 'Hardly') is always paired with 'when', not 'then'. The correct structure is 'Scarcely had he... **when**...'. 'Then' is used to indicate a sequence of events, but in this specific grammatical structure, 'when' is required.

Correct sentence:

Scarcely had he finished reading the circular **when** the fire alarm started ringing loudly, causing panic and confusion among all the employees in the building.

21. Answer: A

The error is in part B: This question contains a dual error related to a singular subject. The subject of the main clause is "Every one," which is a singular indefinite pronoun.

Subject-Verb Agreement Error: The verb must agree with the singular subject "Every one." Therefore, the plural verb "have" is incorrect. It should be the singular verb "has".

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement Error: The pronoun that refers back to the singular antecedent "Every one" must also be singular. The plural possessive pronoun "their" is incorrect. It should be the singular possessive pronoun "its".

Since both errors are located in part (B), it is the grammatically incorrect part of the sentence. The corrected phrase would be "has its own".

Correct sentence:

Every one of the new digital initiatives, which aim to enhance customer experience and streamline internal processes, **has its** own dedicated project manager responsible for overseeing the implementation and ensuring timely delivery of the promised features.

22. Answer: B

The error is in part C: This question tests the rule of **parallel structure**, particularly with the correlative conjunction "not only... but also...". The structure that follows "not only" should be grammatically parallel to the structure that follows "but also".

In this sentence, the structure following "not only" is an infinitive ("to check... and transfer..."). The structure following "but also" begins with an infinitive ("to apply..."), but the subsequent items in the list switch to gerunds ("paying..." and "investing..."). To maintain parallelism, all items in the list should be in the infinitive form.

The corrected phrase for part (C) should be: "pay utility bills, and invest in various financial products". The 'to' from "to apply" carries over to the subsequent verbs in the list.

Correct sentence:

The bank's latest mobile application not only allows customers to check their account balances and transfer funds, but also enables them to apply for loans, **pay** utility bills, and **invest** in various financial products with just a few taps on their smartphones.

23. Answer: E

(a) **controversial, published:** Incorrect. While a ruling can be **controversial** and its principles are **published**, these words are not synonyms for **salient** (most important) and **codified** (arranged systematically).

(b) **minor, disorganized:** Incorrect. These are antonyms. **Salient** features are the opposite of **minor** ones, and to **codify** something is the opposite of leaving it **disorganized**.

(c) **important, debated:** Incorrect. **Important** is a good synonym for **salient**. However, **codified** means systematically arranged and finalized into a code, which is the opposite of being actively **debated**. This makes the option incorrect.

(d) **judicial, legislated:** Incorrect. These are related legal terms but not synonyms. **Salient** refers to importance, not the fact that it's a **judicial** matter. While the principles are part of legislation, **codified** specifically means they have been arranged into a formal system, which is more precise than just being **legislated**.

(e) **prominent, systematized:** Correct. **Salient** means most noticeable or important, making **prominent** a perfect synonym. To **codify** laws is to arrange them into a systematic code, so **systematized** is the correct synonym.

Thus the correct sentence is.

A Supreme Court ruling in October 2025 clarified the **prominent** features of the new Digital Personal Data Protection Act, stressing that all data fiduciaries must adhere to the newly **systematized** principles of data minimization and purpose limitation.

24. Answer: C

(a) thorough, ignore: Incorrect. **Thorough** is a direct antonym for **perfunctory**, which implies a lack of thoroughness. To **ignore** a dispute is the opposite of the judicial action of to **adjudicate** it.

(b) regular, mediate: Incorrect. While oversight might be **regular**, the word **perfunctory** carries a negative connotation of carelessness that "regular" does not capture. To **mediate** is to facilitate a resolution between parties, whereas to **adjudicate** is to act as a formal judge and make an official ruling. The terms are related but distinct.

(c) cursory, settle: Correct. Perfunctory describes an action carried out with a minimum of effort or reflection; **cursory** (hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed) is an excellent synonym. To **adjudicate** a dispute is to make a formal judgment or decision to resolve it, making **settle** the most accurate synonym in this context.

(d) official, discuss: Incorrect. Oversight is by nature **official**, but this word fails to capture the key meaning of "perfunctory," which is about the poor quality and lack of effort. To **discuss** a dispute is a step in the process, but to **adjudicate** is to bring it to a formal conclusion.

(e) superficial, prolong: Incorrect. **Superficial** is a very good synonym for **perfunctory**. However, the second word, **prolong** (extend the duration of), is the opposite of the intended outcome of adjudicating disputes. This makes the option incorrect as a whole.

Thus the correct sentence is.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's report on the stalled mega-highway project was scathing, citing **cursory** governmental oversight and a persistent failure to **settle** land acquisition disputes as the root causes of the delay.

25. Answer: D

(a) final, reliant: Incorrect. While **reliant** is a decent synonym for **contingent**, a **nascent** scheme is in its beginning stages, making it the opposite of **final**.

(b) promising, independent: Incorrect. A scheme might be **promising**, but that word describes its potential, not its early stage of development (**nascent**).

Furthermore, **independent** is a direct antonym for **contingent**.

(c) widespread, unconditional: Incorrect. These are both antonyms. A **nascent** scheme is new and not yet **widespread**, and a **contingent** outcome is by definition not **unconditional**.

(d) incipient, dependent: Correct. Nascent means just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential. **Incipient**, which means "in an initial stage; beginning to happen or develop," is a precise and excellent synonym. **Contingent** means subject to chance or conditional upon something else, making **dependent** the perfect synonym.

(e) failing, determined: Incorrect. A **nascent** scheme could be **failing**, but the word itself simply means "new." **Determined** is unrelated to the meaning of **contingent** (conditional).

Thus the correct sentence is.

The success of the government's **incipient** scheme to integrate AI-powered soil health monitoring is entirely **dependent** upon the widespread adoption of the technology by farmers in rural areas.

26. Answer: D

Let's analyze how each starter connects the two sentences:

(i) Following a recent surge in global oil prices, the central government has increased the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil.

This starter correctly establishes a temporal and causal sequence. The phrase "Following" indicates that the government's action came after the price surge and implies it was a response to it. This creates a grammatically correct and logically sound sentence that preserves the original meaning.

(ii) Although the central government has increased the windfall tax, the decision was prompted by a recent surge in global oil prices.

The word '**Although**' is used to introduce a contrasting idea. The two sentences are not in contrast; the second sentence provides the direct reason for the action in the first. Therefore, this starter changes the meaning of the original sentences.

(iii) A recent surge in global oil prices has prompted the central government to increase the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil.

This starter effectively restructures the sentences to create a clear cause-and-effect statement. It takes the cause (the surge in prices) from Sentence II and makes it the subject, directly leading to the effect (the government's action) from Sentence I. The resulting sentence is grammatically perfect and accurately reflects the original relationship.

Since both starters (i) and (iii) can be used to form a correct and meaningful sentence, option (d) is the correct answer.

27. Answer: A

(i) As a result of the education ministry introducing AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

Shows direct **cause-effect** connection between (I) and (II).

Grammatically correct and contextually meaningful.

Full sentence: "As a result of the education ministry introducing AI-based assessment tools in public schools, teachers can now evaluate student performance more efficiently."

(ii) Despite the education ministry introducing AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

"Despite" signals **contrast**, but the second clause is a **logical outcome**, not an opposing idea.

So, this does **not** fit contextually.

(iii) Until the education ministry introduced AI-based assessment tools in public schools...

"Until" implies the action in (II) stopped or changed afterward, which is incorrect in meaning and tense.

Since the starter (i) alone can be used to form a correct and meaningful sentence, option (a) is the correct answer.

28. Answer: B

Let's analyze each of the starters:

(i) To enhance transparency and make it easier for investors to access their rightful assets, the government has launched a new portal to streamline the process of claiming unclaimed shares and dividends.

This starter uses an infinitive phrase ("To enhance...") to clearly state the **purpose** or **goal** of the government's action. It perfectly explains why the portal was launched. The resulting sentence is grammatically correct and preserves the original meaning.

(ii) The government's new portal launch, which streamlines the process of claiming unclaimed shares and dividends, is designed to enhance transparency and make it easier for investors to access their rightful assets.

This starter effectively transforms the action from Sentence I into the main subject of the new sentence. It allows the information from both sentences to be combined smoothly into a single, cohesive statement. This construction is grammatically sound and accurate.

(iii) Unless the process of claiming shares is streamlined...

The word '**Unless**' introduces a negative condition. It implies that if the condition is not met, a certain result will occur. The original sentences are positive statements of fact and purpose, not a conditional warning. This starter fundamentally changes the meaning and logic.

Since both starters (i) and (ii) correctly combine the sentences while maintaining the original meaning, option (b) is the correct answer.

29. Answer: C

The author's tone balances enthusiasm for the potential of cryptocurrencies and blockchain with awareness of risks and challenges:

Positive aspects highlighted: decentralization, blockchain innovation, smart contracts, DeFi, applications beyond finance.

Cautions noted: market volatility, scalability issues, code vulnerabilities, and regulatory lag.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- a) Completely skeptical – The author acknowledges opportunities and innovations; they are not entirely negative.
- b) Entirely uncritical – The passage clearly discusses risks and challenges; it is not blindly positive.
- d) Technologically indifferent – The author engages deeply with the technology (blockchain, smart contracts, sharding, layer-two solutions).
- e) Focused on historical analysis – The passage discusses current trends, adoption, and challenges, not history.

30. Answer: B

Sentence: The cryptographic **(P) elicited** of these systems render them resistant to manipulation, yet their **(Q) skepticism** nature has **(R) underpinnings** both enthusiasm and **(S) speculative**.

Meaning:

P – elicited → “called forth” or “drawn out”

Q – skepticism → doubt or distrust

R – underpinnings → foundational support or basis

S – speculative → uncertain reasoning rather than solid evidence

"The cryptographic elicited of these systems" → “elicited” is incorrect. The correct word should be underpinnings (R).

So P ↔ R needs swapping.

"yet their skepticism nature has " → "skepticism nature" is wrong; should be speculative (S) nature.

"has underpinnings both enthusiasm..." → should be has elicited both enthusiasm and skepticism.

So Q ↔ S needs swapping.

Both swaps are needed: P ↔ R and Q ↔ S.

Corrected sentence: The cryptographic **underpinnings** of these systems render them resistant to manipulation, yet their **speculative** nature has **elicited** both enthusiasm and **skepticism**.

31. Answer: E

The passage extensively covers both cryptocurrencies and blockchain.

It highlights their innovative potential (DeFi, smart contracts, decentralized applications) as well as challenges (volatility, security vulnerabilities, scalability issues, regulatory hurdles).

The title succinctly captures the dual focus of the passage.

Why the other options are less suitable:

- a) Cryptocurrencies: Trends in Online Payment Systems
Too narrow; the passage is not only about payments but also about blockchain architecture, DeFi, and governance issues.
- b) Emerging Technologies in Finance: Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain
Only partially correct; it mentions technology but doesn't capture the challenges or risks, which are central to the passage.
- c) The Role of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies in Modern Finance
Focuses mainly on the role in finance; ignores technical, regulatory, and security challenges discussed in the passage.
- d) Digital Finance: Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies Transforming the Economy
Implies a purely positive transformation; the passage balances opportunities and challenges, so this is misleading.

32. Answer: D

The passage (paragraph 4) explains that cryptocurrency market volatility is influenced by:

Market sentiment – how investors feel or react to news.

Technological developments – new blockchain updates or innovations.

Regulatory interventions – government rules affecting the market.

Institutional participation – involvement of big investors that can increase liquidity and risk.

It does not mention investor nationality anywhere, so d is the correct answer.

33. Answer: C

In the passage, "nascent" refers to something that is newly emerging or just beginning. Let's look at each sentence:

Sentence I: "The nascent renewable energy industry is attracting significant investment from global corporations."

Correct. This refers to a newly developing industry, which aligns with the meaning of nascent.

Sentence II: "The nascent stock market crashed due to sudden investor panic."

Incorrect. The stock market is not newly emerging; it has been established for a long time.

This misuses "nascent," as it applies to something that is already mature.

Sentence III: "Scientists are optimistic about the nascent stage of gene-editing technologies and their potential medical breakthroughs."

Correct. This refers to a newly developing field (gene-editing technologies) that is still in its early stages, which is the correct use of nascent.

So, I and III are correct uses of the word nascent.

34. Answer: A

Paragraph 4 of the passage states:

"The nascent nature of these assets complicates valuation, as traditional metrics like earnings or cash flow are inapplicable."

Traditional financial metrics (earnings, revenue, cash flow) are designed for companies or fiat-based investments, not for decentralized digital assets.

Other options are incorrect:

- b) Cryptocurrencies are not government-issued, but this is not why metrics fail.
- c) Speculation affects volatility but does not explain inadequacy of metrics.
- d) Market prices are not fixed; they are volatile.
- e) Blockchain does not automate valuation.

35. Answer: A

Statement I: "Cryptocurrencies operate independently of central banks but are completely immune to market risks."

Incorrect inference. The passage mentions that cryptocurrencies operate independently, but they are highly volatile and risky (paragraph 1 and 4). So this statement is not inferred.

Statement II: Blockchain's immutability ensures secure and tamper-proof transactions → Correctly inferred (paragraph 2).

Statement III: Smart contracts on DeFi platforms can be prone to errors, causing financial losses → Correctly inferred (paragraph 3).

Statement IV: Widespread adoption of blockchain requires standardized protocols and interoperability → Correctly inferred (paragraph 5).

So, only Statement I is not inferred from the passage.

36. Answer: B

The sentence in the passage is:

"Smart contracts automate complex financial agreements, obviating intermediaries _____."

Smart contracts are designed to execute agreements automatically without third parties (intermediaries).

They also maintain transparency, because every transaction is recorded on the blockchain and can be verified by participants.

So the blank is best filled with "and maintaining transparency", which reflects the benefit of smart contracts.

Other options are incorrect because:

- a) Increasing latency is a problem, not a benefit.
- c) Smart contracts are decentralized, so central banks cannot intervene.
- d) Immutability is a key feature; smart contracts do not eliminate it.
- e) Smart contracts do not restrict access; they operate on open networks.

37. Answer: D

Statement I: True. Paragraph 2 explains that blockchain's immutability ensures data cannot be altered without consensus.

Statement II: False. Paragraph 1 states cryptocurrencies operate independently of central banks.

Statement III: True. Paragraph 3 mentions smart contracts automate agreements without intermediaries but are susceptible to code vulnerabilities.

Statement IV: True. Paragraph 5 highlights that widespread blockchain adoption requires interoperability and standardized protocols.

So, I, III, and IV are correct, while II is incorrect.

38. Answer: A

The highlighted phrase "**has been able to identified**" is incorrect because after the expression "**has been able to,**" the verb must be in its **base form** (infinitive without "to" repeated).

a) has been able to identify several factors

Correct. "Has been able to" is followed by the base verb "identify."**Correct option**

b) have been able to identify several factors

"Have" is incorrect because the subject "The research team" is singular (collective noun treated as singular here).**Incorrect**

c) has been able identifying several factors

Incorrect verb form. After "has been able," we cannot use a gerund; it must be base verb ("identify").**Incorrect**

d) had been able to identifies several factors

Wrong tense ("had been able" implies past perfect, unnecessary here) and "identifies" is wrong; should be base form "identify."**Incorrect**

e) No improvement is required

Original sentence is grammatically incorrect.**Incorrect**

Final Correct Sentence:"The research team, after conducting extensive field surveys across multiple states, has been able to identify several factors that contribute significantly to the decline in local biodiversity."

39. Answer: A

Errors in the original sentence:**Subject-verb agreement:**"The committee" is a **collective noun**. When acting as a single entity (as here), it takes a **singular verb: has**, not **have**.**Verb pattern after "recommend":**The verb "**recommend**" is **followed by a gerund** (e.g., "implementing") or a clause (e.g., "that + subject + verb")."**"recommended to implement"** is **incorrect**.

a) has recommended implementing several new policies: Correct.

Singular verb matches collective noun, and "implementing" follows "recommended" correctly.

b) have recommended implementing several new policies: Plural verb "**have**" is wrong; "committee" is singular.

c) has recommended to implement several new policies: "Recommended to implement" is ungrammatical; "recommend" is not followed by "to + infinitive."

d) have recommended that several new policies are implemented: Wrong verb agreement again with "have" and tense mismatch: should be "**be implemented**" not "are implemented."

e) No improvement is required: Original sentence is incorrect in both subject-verb agreement and verb pattern after "recommend."

Final Correct Sentence:"The committee, after reviewing the voluminous reports submitted by various departments over the past year, has recommended implementing several new policies aimed at improving operational efficiency across the organization."

40. Answer: C

Errors in the original sentence:The highlighted phrase "**criticized about**" is incorrect.The correct preposition after "**criticize**" is "**for**", not "about," "on," or "regarding."

a) of his inability to meet deadlines consistently: "Criticized of" is ungrammatical.

b) on his inability to meet deadlines consistently: "Criticized on" is **not idiomatic English**.

c) for his inability to meet deadlines consistently: Correct. This is the idiomatic and grammatically correct usage.

d) regarding his inability to meet deadlines consistently: Incorrect. While "regarding" can be used in general, it is **not idiomatic after "criticized."**

e) No improvement is required: Original sentence is incorrect because "criticized about" is **wrong preposition usage**.

Final Correct Sentence:"Despite being extremely talented and having years of experience in project management, Rajesh was often criticized for his inability to meet deadlines consistently, which affected his chances of promotion."