

Fix the house: On social media, social media access

Governments should regulate social media platforms, not users

The more **wicked** the problem, the more the people **yearn for** a simpler solution. This **tendency** has **complicated** the public **debate** on how and how much social media harm teenagers. While the **idea** that these platforms were **stoking** a mental health crisis **prevailed** in several countries for long, researchers have now adopted a more cautious **stance**. Social media use and mental health are clearly associated — more so among girls — but how much of that is actually causal and in what circumstances is still being **debated**. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke favourably of Australia's decision, in 2024, to ban social media access for those aged 16 and below. His words **augur** a similar ban in India, one that Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have publicly **mulled** as well. However, Australian **psychologists**, digital health researchers, child-rights scholars, and online safety experts have **criticised** the ban because, while there is a **credible** body of evidence linking social media use and harm among children, **evidence** of a link between an age-based access ban and better mental health **has** been lacking. In the absence of a real-world **precedent**, Australia has effectively been conducting a natural experiment. And research has estimated that around 85% of 12-16-year-olds still use social media platforms.

While some psychologists and **advocacy** groups have **argued** that **waiting** for perfect evidence to act **would** recreate the mistake governments made with tobacco, many experts believe that the state should drop the ban and instead adopt a stronger duty of care, include digital **literacy** in school education, restrict addictive user interfaces/experiences, **mandate** a **chronological feed** for minors, **enforce** stronger **content moderation**, improve privacy protections, and introduce effective parental controls. Most **studies** of **adolescent** harm due to social media **have** also been observational and thus **susceptible to** reverse **causation** (**depressed** teenagers may spend more time online) and smaller average effects; experts have also noted that hours per day is less explanatory than **passive** versus active engagement, participation in supportive **versus** hostile communities, and so on. **Indeed**, while social media use can **disrupt** sleep and increase **exposure** to cyber-bullying, addictive recommendation patterns, and content about self-harm and eating **disorders**, it can also help maintain friendships and explore one's identity, offer **peer support**, and increase access to **LGBTQIA+** communities and mental health information. The overall picture is mixed and the solutions are not simple. However, the first step could be: rather than regulate 'who may enter', governments should change how platforms operate.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Mandate** (verb) – require, order, prescribe, enforce, authorize अनिवार्य करना
- **Passive** (adjective) – unresponsive, inert, submissive, complacent, inactive निष्क्रिय

Vocabulary

1. **Fix the house** (phrase) - to improve or reform the internal management or operations of a system or institution.
व्यवस्था सुधारना
2. **Wicked** (adjective) - complex, difficult, challenging, thorny, intractable. जटिल
3. **Yearn** (for) (verb) - to have an intense feeling of longing for something. तीव्र इच्छा होना
4. **Tendency** (noun) - inclination, propensity, disposition, leaning, trend. प्रवृत्ति
5. **Complicate** (verb) - confuse, involve, entangle, muddle, intricate. जटिल बनाना
6. **Debate** (noun) - discussion, argument, deliberation, dispute, discourse. वाद-विवाद
7. **Stoke** (verb) - incite, fuel, provoke, stimulate, encourage. भड़काना
8. **Prevail** (verb) - dominate, triumph, persist, exist, flourish. व्याप्त होना
9. **Stance** (noun) - position, viewpoint, standpoint, attitude, perspective. दृष्टिकोण
10. **Debate** (verb) - discuss, argue, deliberate, dispute, contest. बहस करना
11. **Augur** (verb) - predict, foreshadow, bode, presage, portend. संकेत देना
12. **Mull** (verb) - ponder, consider, contemplate, deliberate, reflect. विचार करना
13. **Psychologist** (noun) - mental health expert मनोवैज्ञानिक
14. **Criticise** (verb) - censure, condemn, attack, denounce, judge. आलोचना करना
15. **Credible** (adjective) - believable, plausible, reliable, trustworthy, convincing.
विश्वसनीय
16. **Precedent** (noun) - model, example, standard, antecedent, exemplar. मिसाल
17. **Advocacy** (noun) - support, promotion, backing, defense, championing. समर्थन
18. **Argue** (verb) - claim, contend, assert, reason, debate. तर्क देना
19. **Literacy** (noun) - knowledge, proficiency, education, competence, awareness.
साक्षरता
20. **Chronological** (adjective) - sequential, ordered, serial, successive, historic.
कालानुक्रमिक
21. **Feed** (noun) - content stream, update, newsfeed, channel, flow. सूचना प्रवाह
22. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, apply, impose, execute, administer. लागू करना
23. **Content moderation** (noun) - the process of screening and monitoring user-generated content. सामग्री मॉडरेशन
24. **Adolescent** (noun) - teenager, youth, minor, juvenile, youngster. किशोर
25. **Susceptible** (to) (adjective) - likely to be influenced or harmed by something.
अतिसंवेदनशील
26. **Causation** (noun) - origin, trigger, reason, source, cause. कारणता
27. **Depressed** (adjective) - sad, unhappy, gloomy, despondent, dejected. उदास

28. **Versus** (preposition) - against, opposite to, in contrast to. के विपरीत
29. **Indeed** (adverb) - certainly, actually, truly, really, in fact. वास्तव में
30. **Disrupt** (verb) - disturb, interrupt, interfere, unsettle, break. बाधित करना
31. **Exposure** (noun) - experience, contact, vulnerability, openness, access. जोखिम में आना या संपर्क
32. **Disorder** (noun) - illness, malady, condition, ailment, disease. विकार
33. **Peer support** (noun) - social support provided by people of similar age or social group. साथियों का सहयोग
34. **LGBTQIA+** (noun) - acronym representing diverse sexual orientations and gender identities—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the "+" includes other identities not specifically listed
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Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that governments should regulate social media platforms rather than banning users, especially teenagers, from accessing them.
2. Concerns about social media harming teenagers' mental health have existed for years, but researchers now believe the relationship is more complex than previously thought.
3. Although social media use is associated with mental health problems, particularly among girls, the extent to which social media directly causes these issues remains uncertain.
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed support for Australia's 2024 decision to ban social media access for children below 16 years of age.
5. States such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are also considering introducing similar age-based restrictions in India.
6. However, many Australian psychologists, child-rights experts, and digital health researchers oppose the ban because there is little evidence that age-based restrictions improve children's mental health.
7. Australia's policy is effectively serving as a natural experiment, but early research shows that nearly 85% of children aged 12–16 continue to use social media despite the ban.
8. Some experts compare social media regulation to tobacco control, arguing that governments should act even if scientific evidence is not yet complete.
9. Many specialists recommend replacing outright bans with a stronger 'duty of care' for social media companies.
10. Experts suggest introducing digital literacy education in schools so that children can use online platforms more safely and responsibly.
11. They also recommend restricting addictive platform features, providing chronological feeds for minors, improving content moderation, strengthening privacy protections, and offering better parental controls.
12. Most existing studies linking social media to adolescent harm are observational, making it difficult to establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship.
13. Research suggests that the quality of social media use — such as active versus passive engagement and supportive versus hostile online communities — matters more than simply the number of hours spent online.
14. Social media has both harmful and beneficial effects: it may increase cyberbullying, sleep disruption, and exposure to harmful content, but it also helps maintain friendships, provides peer support, enables identity exploration, and offers access to mental health resources and LGBTQIA+ communities.
15. The editorial concludes that because the evidence is mixed, governments should focus on reforming how social media platforms function instead of simply deciding who is allowed to use them.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **The primary purpose of the passage is to:**
 - A. outline the linear milestones in the historical development of global digital privacy laws.
 - B. challenge the practical efficacy of an absolute policy measure using empirical complexities.
 - C. validate an outmoded scientific paradigm regarding the psychological impacts of screen time.
 - D. trace the chronological progression of adolescent mental health frameworks across nations.
2. **It can be inferred from this passage that the author views the relationship between social media use and adolescent mental health as:**
 - A. definitive and universally detrimental
 - B. complex and highly multifactorial
 - C. speculative and scientifically unproven
 - D. straightforward and easily resolvable
3. **The writer thinks that:**
 - A. both the state and the public are sensible when one enforces bans and the other circumvents them.
 - B. the public is sensible and the state is insensible when deciding how to address teenage online safety.
 - C. both the advocates and the experts make sense when one demands action and the other offers systemic solutions.
 - D. the state is sensible and the experts are insensible when implementing protective digital firewalls.
4. **The word 'Mull' as used in the passage means:**
 - A. reject
 - B. accelerate
 - C. verify
 - D. weigh
5. **Which of the following statements is grammatically correct in the context of the passage?**
 - A. The criticism of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars highlight concerns regarding passive engagement, structural bypasses, and the lack of empirical evidence.
 - B. The criticism of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars highlights concerns regarding passive engagement, structural bypasses, and lack of empirical evidence.
 - C. The criticism of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars highlight concerns regarding passive engagement, structural bypasses, and lack of empirical evidence.
 - D. The criticism of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars highlights concerns regarding passive engagement, structural bypasses, and the lack of empirical evidence.
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. This progress in access is impressive, and it creates an opportunity to do more to support people's financial health.
 2. A financial health approach will be beneficial not just for families but also for the country.

3. India has recently undergone a remarkable transformation.
4. According to the World Bank's Global Findex, account ownership among adults has risen from around 56% to 89% in just 10 years.
 - A. 4-1-3-2
 - B. 3-4-1-2
 - C. 3-1-4-2
 - D. 1-4-2-3
7. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
 - A. Neither of the two B. proposals were approved C. because the committee found D. both of them to be unsatisfactory.
 - A. Neither of the two
 - B. proposals were approved
 - C. because the committee found
 - D. both of them to be unsatisfactory.
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**

The defendant was charged _____ colluding with foreign agents to influence the outcome of the election.

 - A. of
 - B. for
 - C. with
 - D. about
9. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

A person who is trained to care for animals

 - A. Zoologist
 - B. Biologist
 - C. Veterinarian
 - D. Ecologist
10. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
 - A. Anniversary
 - B. Aniversary
 - C. Anniversarry
 - D. Annivessary
11. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. It would do well to stay vigilant and hunt down erring athletes and support staff in order to deter them from taking short-cuts to success.
 2. Even as the temptation of winning medals and cash awards will continue to test athletes' honesty prior to big events, stricter anti-doping measures will save the country further embarrassment and help create a much-needed environment for clean competition.
 3. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is understood to have been focusing on athletics as far as testing is concerned in the run-up to mega events this year.
 4. Scores of athletes across different sports, with athletics leading the chart, testing positive for banned substances has brought India the dubious distinction of being number one in this field for three consecutive years.

- A. 4-3-2-1
B. 3-1-4-2
C. 4-3-1-2
D. 3-4-1-2
12. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: All hands on the deck**
A. Everyone working together
B. Someone in charge of the deck
C. A distraction on the deck
D. A difficult task
13. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:**
He has a lot of potential, _____ his lack of discipline may hinder his growth.
A. whereas
B. unless
C. because
D. albeit
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.**
The professor said, "The study published last year proves that the hypothesis is false."
A. The professor said that the study published the previous year proved that the hypothesis was false.
B. The professor said that the study published last year proves that the hypothesis is false.
C. The professor said that the study published the previous year proved that the hypothesis is false
D. The professor said that the study published last year proved that the hypothesis was false.
15. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**
The government will be implementing the new environmental regulations next month.
A. The new environmental regulations will be implemented by the government next month.
B. The new environmental regulations will be being implemented by the government next month
C. The new environmental regulations are being implemented by the government next month.
D. The new environmental regulations will have been implemented by the government next month.
16. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
The bowler took three wickets in the past four overs.
A. in the last four overs
B. in the next four overs
C. during the past four overs
D. in four overs
17. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**
The undercover officer managed to _____ a confession about the gang's _____ activities.
A. elicit, illicit
B. illicit, elicit
C. solstice, solicit
D. solicit, solstice

18. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct voice.

My friend told me that she had been thinking about quitting her job but that she had not made a final decision yet.

- A. My friend said to me, "I was thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet."
- B. My friend said to me, "I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet."
- C. My friend said to me, "I had been thinking about quitting my job, but I had not made a final decision yet."
- D. My friend said to me, "I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I did not make a final decision yet."

19. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.

The sudden darkening of the sky was seen as a portent of the approaching storm.

- A. Blessing
- B. Reward
- C. Omen
- D. Coincidence

20. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.

The rapacious landlord raised rents repeatedly without any concern for his struggling tenants.

- A. Greedy
- B. Generous
- C. Charitable
- D. Benevolent

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Institutes of National Importance (INIs), including IITs and IIMs, _____(1) pushed back against the Centre's Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, asking to be exempted from many provisions of the Bill that _____(2) to _____(3) India's higher education regulatory framework. These institutes, along with Central Universities, have cited the need to protect institutional autonomy, flagging contradictions in the Bill and criticising aspects such as the provisions for centralisation. The Bill is _____(4) review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) headed by BJP MP D. Purandeswari.

Submissions to the JPC show that the NDA-ruled States of Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Madhya Pradesh have objected to the centralising provisions.

The Bill proposes a structural overhaul of higher education in the country by repealing the statutory Acts governing the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education, and the National Council for Teacher Education and replacing them with a single _____(5) body called the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA), with regulatory, accreditation, and standards councils under it.

21. Select the most appropriate option for (1):

- A. has
- B. have
- C. are
- D. had

22. Select the most appropriate option for (2):

- A. intend
- B. intended
- C. intends
- D. intending

23. **Select the most appropriate option for (3):**

- A. preserve
- B. overhaul
- C. construct
- D. repair

24. **Select the most appropriate option for (4):**

- A. in
- B. for
- C. under
- D. on

25. **Select the most appropriate option for (5):**

- A. supreme
- B. apex
- C. primary
- D. central

Answers

1. B 2. B 3.C 4. D 5. D 6.C 7. B 8. C 9. C 10. A 11.C 12.A
 13. D 14.C 15.B 16.A 17.A 18.B 19.C 20.A 21.B 22.C 23.B 24.C
 25. B

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **challenge the practical efficacy of an absolute policy measure using empirical complexities.**

Line from Passage: "...evidence of a link between an age-based access ban and better mental health has been lacking... The passage explicitly states in the second paragraph that "evidence of a link between an age-based access ban and better mental health has been lacking." It reiterates this structural stance in the final paragraph, concluding that the overall picture is mixed and that rather than implementing an absolute barrier on entry, "the first step could be: rather than regulate 'who may enter', governments should change how platforms operate."

(a) is incorrect: The passage mentions a specific 2024 policy decision in Australia and political reactions in India, but it does not provide a linear or historical timeline tracking the global development of digital privacy laws.

(c) is incorrect: The passage notes that while the idea of platforms stoking a mental health crisis prevailed for a long time, "researchers have now adopted a more cautious stance." The author advocates for this modern, cautious complexity rather than validating an outmoded consensus.

(d) is incorrect: The passage references contemporary political discussions across a few regions (Australia, India, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka), but it does not trace a long-term chronological evolution or overview of international mental health frameworks.

2. B) **complex and highly multifactorial**

The passage explicitly states in the first paragraph that the issue is a "wicked problem," and concludes by stating that "The overall picture is mixed and the solutions are not simple." It highlights that the impact depends on multiple overlapping factors (making it multifactorial), such as "passive versus active engagement, participation in supportive versus hostile communities," and points out the complicating factor of "reverse causation" where depressed teenagers might simply spend more time online.

(a) is incorrect: The passage contradicts the idea that social media is universally detrimental by acknowledging its positive aspects, noting that it can "help maintain friendships and explore one's identity, offer peer support, and increase access to LGBTQIA+ communities and mental health information."

(c) is incorrect: The author does not view the harm as entirely unproven or speculative; the passage clearly acknowledges that "Social media use and mental health are clearly associated" and that there is a "credible body of evidence linking social media use and harm among children."

(d) is incorrect: The passage explicitly rejects the idea that this is a straightforward issue with an easy fix. It warns against the public's yearning for a "simpler solution," criticizes blunt age-based bans, and definitively states at the end that "the solutions are not simple."

3. C) **both the advocates and the experts make sense when one demands action and the other offers systemic solutions.**

The passage carefully balances two rational arguments: it validates the advocates/psychologists who demand urgent action to prevent harm (comparing it to the state's tobacco error: "waiting for perfect evidence to act would recreate the mistake"), while also validating the experts who offer alternative platform design solutions because absolute entry bans lack real-world precedent. The author concludes that the whole issue is a "wicked problem" where "the overall picture is mixed," validating the underlying logic of both sides while steering the policy direction toward platform reform.

(a) is incorrect: The author explicitly critiques the effectiveness of the ban and the massive circumvention rate ("around 85%... still use social media"). The passage treats this as a policy failure and a "natural experiment" rather than labeling both parties as sensible.

(b) is incorrect: The author targets the general human tendency ("people yearn for a simpler solution") and critiques absolute state actions, but does not broad-brush the "public" as sensible while calling the state "insensible."

(d) is incorrect: The author sides heavily with the experts' recommendations over the state's entry firewalls, explicitly noting that the state's age-based bans lack empirical backing. Thus, the author does not view the state as sensible and the experts as insensible.

4. D) **weigh**

To mull (often used as "mull over") means to think about, ponder, or consider something deeply and at length. In the context of the passage, the state governments have not yet finalized the policy; instead, they are actively weighing the pros and cons of implementing an age-based social media ban.

5. D) **The criticism of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars highlights concerns regarding passive engagement, structural bypasses, and the lack of empirical evidence.**

Option 4 is grammatically sound and contextually accurate according to the passage. The primary subject of the sentence is "The criticism," which is singular, and therefore it correctly pairs with the singular verb "highlights." The descriptive phrase "of age-based access bans by Australian child-rights scholars" serves as a complex prepositional modifier that describes the criticism and does not alter the singular subject-verb agreement.

The elements within the terminating list—passive engagement, structural bypasses, and the lack of empirical evidence—maintain absolute grammatical parallelism as balanced noun entities. The definite article "the" before "lack of empirical evidence" is properly utilized because it designates a highly specific, identified gap in scientific data explicitly debated in the passage. Structurally and factually, Option D maintains flawless subject-verb agreement, proper article implementation, and clear parallelism.

6. C) **3-4-1-2**

Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह भारत में हुए एक बड़े बदलाव (remarkable transformation) के main topic को introduce करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह World Bank के data का reference देकर उसी "transformation" को expand करता है और बताता है कि account ownership कैसे बढ़ी है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "This progress" सीधे तौर पर पिछले वाक्य में बताए गए account ownership के बढ़ने (progress) से जुड़ा है।

- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह बताता है कि यह financial health approach सिर्फ families के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे देश के लिए beneficial होगा।
 - Sentence 3 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, introducing the broad main topic of a recent remarkable transformation in India.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because it acts as a logical progression, providing specific data from the World Bank to illustrate exactly what that transformation looks like.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase "This progress" serves as a direct grammatical link back to the massive increase in account ownership detailed in the previous sentence.
 - Sentence 2 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, summarizing the ultimate broader impact of this financial health approach on both families and the country.
- 7. B) 'proposals were approved' के बदले '**proposals was approved**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Neither of the + plural noun के साथ verb singular आती है। यहाँ Neither subject है और singular मानकर verb का प्रयोग किया जाता है।
 - 'proposals was approved' will be used instead of 'proposals were approved' because with Neither of + plural noun, the verb is considered singular. Here, Neither acts as a singular subject, so the verb must also be singular.
- 8. C) **with** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "charged with" एक स्थापित कानूनी संरचना है, जिसका प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब किसी पर औपचारिक रूप से किसी अपराध या गलत कार्य का आरोप लगाया गया हो। यहाँ संदर्भ चुनाव में हस्तक्षेप के लिए विदेशी एजेंटों के साथ मिलकर साजिश करने का है, जो एक स्पष्ट कानूनी आरोप है। इसलिए "charged with" सही और स्वाभाविक संयोजन है।
 - "with" should be used because "charged with" is a fixed legal collocation used when someone is formally accused of a crime or wrongdoing. In the given sentence, the defendant is formally accused of colluding with foreign agents to influence an election, which is a clear legal context. Therefore, "charged with" is the most appropriate and grammatically correct choice.
- 9. C) **Veterinarian** (noun) – a person trained to care for or treat animals पशु-चिकित्सक / पशु-चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञ
 - **Zoologist** (noun) – studies animals scientifically प्राणी-विज्ञानी
 - **Biologist** (noun) – studies living organisms जीव-विज्ञानी
 - **Ecologist** (noun) – studies relationships between organisms and environment पर्यावरण-विज्ञानी
- 10. A) The correctly spelt word is Anniversary which means "the yearly recurrence of a date or event" वर्षगाँठ / सालगिरह।
- 11. C) **4-3-1-2**
Explanation:

- Sentence 4 Paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह भारत में डोपिंग की गंभीर समस्या (testing positive for banned substances) और global level पर देश की negative स्थिति को introduce करता है।
 - Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इस समस्या के solution के रूप में यह National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) द्वारा athletics testing पर विशेष ध्यान देने के कदम को सामने लाता है।
 - Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "It" सीधे तौर पर पिछले वाक्य की संस्था "NADA" को इंगित करता है और उसके द्वारा सतर्क रहने (stay vigilant) की आवश्यकता को आगे बढ़ाता है।
 - Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह कड़े anti-doping उपायों (stricter anti-doping measures) के अंतिम long-term benefits को स्पष्ट करते हुए एक clean competitive environment बनाने के निष्कर्ष के साथ paragraph को समाप्त करता है।
 - Sentence 4 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, establishing the core crisis by highlighting the high number of athletes testing positive for banned substances.
 - Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4 because it acts as a logical progression, introducing the responsive action taken by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to tackle this crisis within athletics.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because the pronoun "It" serves as a direct grammatical link referencing NADA, expanding on the specific operational expectations required of the agency.
 - Sentence 2 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, shifting from the immediate investigative vigilance to summarize the long-term benefits of strict anti-doping measures in fostering clean sports environments.
12. A) **All hands on the deck** (Idiom) - Everyone working together सबका मिलकर काम करना / सबकी आवश्यकता होना
13. D) **albeit** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में दो विपरीत विचारों को एक ही कथन में जोड़ना है — एक तरफ संभावनाएँ (potential) और दूसरी तरफ एक ऐसी बाधा (lack of discipline) जो उसके विकास को रोक सकती है। **albeit** एक concessive conjunction के रूप में प्रयोग होता है, जो किसी सकारात्मक कथन के साथ उसके विपरीत या सीमित करने वाले तत्व को जोड़ता है। इसलिए यह सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- “albeit” should be used because the sentence contrasts a positive trait (having potential) with a limiting factor (lack of discipline). “Albeit” works as a concessive conjunction to introduce a qualifying or contrasting clause without breaking the statement structure. Hence, it is the most appropriate choice here.
14. C) The professor said that the study published the previous year proved that the hypothesis is false
- The reporting verb “said” is in the past, so the sentence must be converted into indirect speech with appropriate backshifting and time reference changes. The phrase “last year” refers to a past time relative to the moment of speaking, so it correctly changes to “the previous year.” The verb “proves” is also backshifted to “proved” because it refers to a specific study conducted in the past. However, “the hypothesis is false” expresses a scientific fact that

is still considered true at the time of reporting, so its tense is not changed and remains in the present. Therefore, option 3 most accurately conveys the original meaning while following the rules of indirect speech.

- Reporting verb “said” past tense में है, इसलिए indirect speech बनाते समय tense और time words change होते हैं। “Last year” indirect speech में “the previous year” बनता है। “Proves” को “proved” किया गया है क्योंकि यह उस study के बारे में है जो पहले publish हुई थी। लेकिन “the hypothesis is false” एक fact है, जो अभी भी true माना जाता है, इसलिए इसका tense change नहीं होता। इसी कारण option 3 सही answer है।

15. B) The new environmental regulations will be being implemented by the government next month

The given active sentence is in the future continuous tense because it uses “will be implementing.” When we change a future continuous sentence into passive voice, the structure becomes “will be + being + past participle.” So, “will be implementing” changes to “will be being implemented.” The object “the new environmental regulations” becomes the subject in the passive sentence, and “by the government” is added to show who is doing the action. Therefore, option 2 is correct.

- दिया गया active sentence future continuous tense में है क्योंकि इसमें “will be implementing” का प्रयोग हुआ है। जब future continuous tense को passive voice में बदला जाता है, तो structure होता है “will be + being + past participle.” इसलिए “will be implementing” बदलकर “will be being implemented” हो जाता है। Active sentence का object “the new environmental regulations” passive sentence का subject बन जाता है और “by the government” से action करने वाला बताया जाता है। इसी कारण option 2 सही है।

16. A) in the past four overs’ के बदले **‘in the last four overs’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी completed recent period को दर्शाने के लिए cricket commentary एवं standard usage में last का प्रयोग होता है, जबकि past सामान्यतः broader elapsed time के लिए प्रयोग होता है। यहाँ चार overs पूरी हो चुकी हैं, इसलिए last सही है।

- ‘in the last four overs’ will be used instead of ‘in the past four overs’ because for a recently completed specific time span, standard cricket usage prefers last, while past is used for a more general elapsed time. Since the four overs have already been completed, last is appropriate.

17. A) **‘elicit, illicit’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence यह बताता है कि undercover officer ने confession “निकालने” या “उगलवाने” में सफलता पाई — जिसका अर्थ elicit से व्यक्त होता है। वहीं दूसरी ओर, confession gang की “illegal / unlawful” activities के बारे में है — जिसका अर्थ illicit से व्यक्त होता है। इसलिए यह pair सबसे उचित विकल्प है।

- ‘elicit, illicit’ should be used because in the entire context, the sentence indicates that the officer managed to draw out or obtain a confession, which aligns with elicit. Meanwhile, the confession pertains to the gang’s illegal or unlawful activities, which corresponds to illicit. Thus, option A is the most appropriate choice.

18. B) **My friend said to me, “I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet.”**

The given sentence is in indirect speech. Because the reporting verb “told” is in the past, the tenses were backshifted. The phrase “had been thinking” is the backshifted form of “have

been thinking" (present perfect continuous). When we change the sentence back into direct speech, this backshifting is removed, so "had been thinking" becomes "have been thinking." Similarly, "had not made a final decision yet" changes back to "have not made a final decision yet." Therefore, option 2 correctly expresses the sentence in direct speech.

- दिया गया वाक्य indirect speech में है। क्योंकि reporting verb "told" past tense में है, इसलिए tenses को backshift किया गया है। "Had been thinking", "have been thinking" (present perfect continuous) का backshifted form है। जब हम वाक्य को वापस direct speech में बदलते हैं, तो यह backshifting हटा दी जाती है और "had been thinking" फिर से "have been thinking" बन जाता है। इसी तरह "had not made a final decision yet" बदलकर "have not made a final decision yet" हो जाता है। इसलिए option 2 सही है।

19. C) **PORTENT** (noun) – A sign or warning that something momentous or calamitous is likely to happen; an omen; a foreboding; a harbinger. लक्षण, शकुन

Synonym: **OMEN** (noun) – An event regarded as a sign of future good or evil; a portent; a harbinger; a forewarning; a presage. शकुन, पूर्वसूचना

- **Blessing** (noun) – A beneficial thing for which one is grateful; divine favor — a positive outcome, not a warning sign. आशीर्वाद, वरदान
- **Reward** (noun) – A thing given in recognition of service or merit; a benefit — unrelated to the meaning of portent. पुरस्कार, इनाम
- **Coincidence** (noun) – A remarkable concurrence of events without apparent connection — not a sign or portent. संयोग

20. A) **RAPACIOUS** (adjective) – Aggressively greedy or grasping; plundering; avaricious; predatory; excessively acquisitive. लालची, लोभी

Synonym: **GREEDY** (adjective) – Having an intense desire for wealth or possessions; avaricious; rapacious; covetous; grasping. लालची, लोभी

- **Generous** (adjective) – Showing willingness to give freely; liberal; unselfish — an antonym of rapacious. उदार, दानी
- **Charitable** (adjective) – Generous in giving to those in need; benevolent; kind — an antonym of rapacious. दयालु, परोपकारी
- **Benevolent** (adjective) – Well-meaning and kindly; generous; philanthropic — an antonym of rapacious. परोपकारी, दयालु

21. B) **have**

Have is used because the subject "Institutes" is plural, which requires a plural helping verb to show a recently completed action in the present perfect tense. Has is a singular verb. Are does not make sense here because it cannot be paired directly with the action word "pushed" in this active sentence structure. Had is used for the past tense, which contradicts the fact that the protest against this 2025 Bill is currently ongoing.

- यहाँ Have का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "Institutes" plural है, जिसके साथ present perfect tense में plural helping verb का आना ज़रूरी है। Has singular है। Are का use यहाँ "pushed" के साथ सही meaning नहीं देता। Had past tense को दर्शाता है, जो इस चल रही current घटना के लिए गलत है।

22. C) (**intends**)

Intends is used because the subject "Bill" is singular, which requires a singular action verb ending with an 's' in the present tense to state a fact or purpose. Intend is a plural verb. Intended is past tense, which does not fit because the Bill is currently active and proposed for the future. Intending is an "-ing" form that cannot be used without a helping verb like "is" or "was".

- यहाँ Intends का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "Bill" singular है, जिसके साथ present tense में 's' वाली singular action verb का आना आवश्यक है। Intend plural है। Intended past tense है, जो present में लाए गए बिल के लिए गलत है। Intending के साथ helping verb की ज़रूरत होती है।

23. B) overhaul

Overhaul is used because it means to take apart and completely change or improve an entire system. This perfectly matches the context of replacing all the old educational laws with a completely new framework. Preserve means to keep things exactly as they are, which is the exact opposite. Construct means to build something from zero, not modify an existing system. Repair means fixing minor damage, which is too weak of a word for replacing entire national laws.

- यहाँ Overhaul का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ किसी पूरे framework या ढांचे को पूरी तरह से change या improve करना होता है। यह पुराने rules को हटाकर नया framework बनाने के लिए बिल्कुल सही है। Preserve का अर्थ चीजों को exactly वैसा ही बनाए रखना होता है। Construct का अर्थ zero से कुछ नया बनाना होता है। Repair का अर्थ छोटी-मोटी मरम्मत करना होता है, जो यहाँ बहुत weak शब्द है।

24. C) under

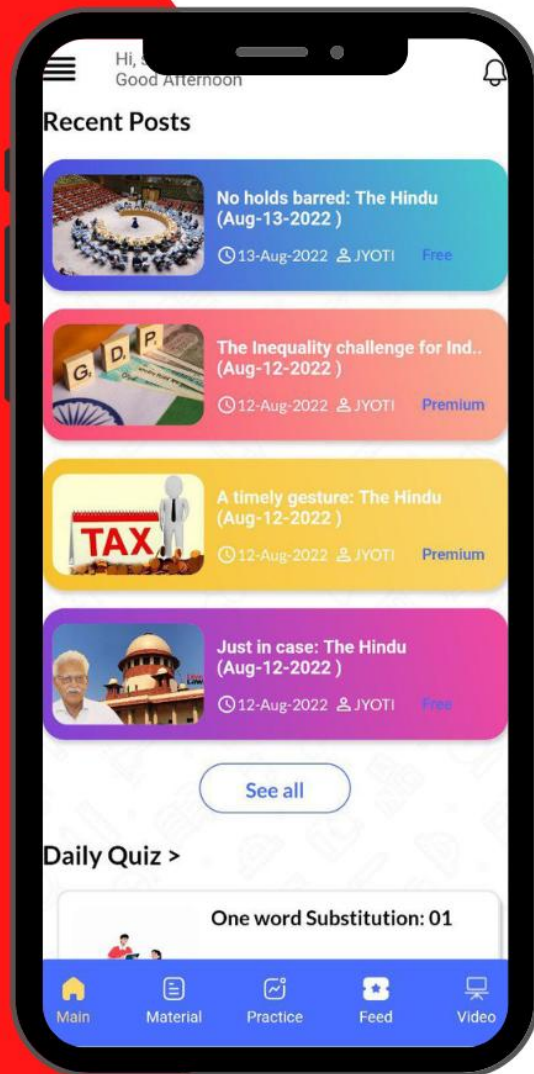
Under is used because the phrase "under review" means that something is currently being examined, checked, or considered by a higher authority (like the JPC). In, For, and On are wrong because they do not give this correct meaning when placed directly before the word "review" to show an ongoing official process.

- यहाँ Under का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि "under review" का अर्थ होता है कि किसी चीज़ की official checking या जांच चल रही है। In, For, और On यहाँ "review" शब्द के साथ जुड़कर किसी official process के चलने का सही meaning नहीं देते हैं।

25. B) apex

Apex is used because it refers to the highest or top level. "Apex body" is the exact correct term used in administration for a single top organization that controls other smaller councils placed under it. Supreme means highest in power, but it is usually used for courts or leaders. Central means in the middle, and Primary means first in order of importance, neither of which describes a top controlling organization as accurately.

- यहाँ Apex का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ सबसे ऊँचा या top level होता है। "Apex body" एक top organization के लिए exact शब्द है जिसके control में अन्य छोटी councils काम करती हैं। Supreme का अर्थ highest in power होता है, जो अक्सर courts के लिए आता है। Central का अर्थ middle होता है और Primary का अर्थ first in order होता है, जो यहाँ सही meaning नहीं देते।



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