SBI PO Prelims Memory-Based Paper Based 2021

Directions (1-7): Read the given passage and answer the following questions. Some words are highlighted to help you answer some of the questions.

Curiosity has always been a driving force behind human progress, evident in figures such as Marie Curie, Nikola Tesla, and Galileo Galilei. In a 1962 interview, Marie Curie remarked, "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less." In today's fast-paced world, curiosity acts as a catalyst for creativity and innovation. Those with a persistent quest for knowledge and an open mind often contribute significantly to society, paving the way for new technologies, discoveries, and perspectives. Curiosity is essential in cultivating a growth mindset, as it encourages questioning assumptions and exploring uncharted territories. Just like exercise strengthens the body, curiosity exercises the mind, making it sharper and more resilient. Research indicates that inquisitive individuals tend to perform better academically and professionally, constantly seeking new learning experiences. Life remains dynamic and exciting for those who are curious, as they continually find opportunities to explore, analyze, and innovate. Walt Disney once emphasized that curiosity fuels progress, allowing one to move into unexplored domains. In the corporate world, fostering curiosity is vital for innovation and maintaining a competitive edge.

Q1. Why is curiosity referred to as the engine of innovation?
(a) It helps individuals maintain mental flexibility.
(b) It motivates people to explore and experiment.
(c) It allows people to appear naturally eccentric.
(d) It guarantees a bold and adventurous life.
(e) None of these

Q2. Why should we be thankful to those with a curious mindset?
(a) They encourage us to develop discipline and perseverance.
(b) They challenge our preconceptions and provoke reflection.
(c) Their discoveries have improved the lives of many.
(d) They inherently possess an insatiable thirst for knowledge.
(e) All of these

Q3. Which of the following can be inferred from Marie Curie's statement in the passage?
(a) Understanding reduces fear and enhances learning.
(b) One should stop exploring once knowledge is acquired.
(c) It is sufficient to gain small insights every day.
(d) All of these
(e) Only (a) and (c)

Q4. Why does life never feel dull for a curious person according to the passage?
(a) Because humans naturally crave knowledge.
(b) Because curiosity enhances the depth of thought.

(c) Because curiosity prevents passive thinking.
(d) Because there is always something new to explore and learn.
(e) None of these

Q5. Which of the following statements is/are correct according to the passage?
(a) Exercising the mind through curiosity strengthens it.
(b) Curiosity is fundamental for an engaging and fulfilling life.
(c) Inquisitive people tend to perform better in academics and work.
(d) Only (a) and (c)
(e) All of these

Q6. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word 'PERSISTENT', as highlighted in the passage.
(a) Sporadic
(b) Tenacious
(c) Steadfast
(d) Resolute
(e) None of these

Q7. Which word can replace 'FOSTERING', as highlighted in the passage, to make the sentence contextually correct?
(a) Suppressing
(b) Encouraging
(c) Ignoring
(d) Restricting
(e) No replacement required

Directions (8-12): Fill in the blanks with the most suitable options.

Q8. During the _____ drought, there were severe _____ on agriculture.
(a) worldwide, outcomes
(b) prolonged, impacts
(c) regional, nature
(d) localized, consequence
(e) sudden, results

Q9. The manager _____ the employees of their _____ to the organization.
(a) assured, loyalty
(b) exempted, allegiance
(c) confirmed, treason
(d) informed, deceit
(e) reminded, devotion

Q10. A detailed _____ of the painting and the expert's _____ revealed its authenticity.

(a) mismatch, opinion
(b) analysis, assessment
(c) review, hypothesis
(d) features, interpretation
(e) contrast, observation

Q11. Due to a sudden _____ in revenue, the company had to
_____ some employees.
(a) surge, hire
(b) drop, retain
(c) inflow, fire
(d) rise, dismiss
(e) decline, lay off

Q12. Several countries faced a grain _____ when a/an _____
was imposed on exports.
(a) shortage, embargo
(b) scarcity, deterrent
(c) abundance, restriction
(d) surplus, embargo
(e) deficiency, sanction

Directions (13-17): Rearrange the words to form grammatically correct sentences.

Q13. There has(A) confidence in India's(C) economy fallen(B) due to recent(D)
policy changes.
(a) ACBD
(b) BCAD
(c) CABD
(d) DCAB
(e) No rearrangement required

Q14. Despite(A) objections, the committee did(B) not interfere(C) in the
company's(D) internal matters.
(a) ABCD
(b) ACBD
(c) CABD
(d) BCDA
(e) No rearrangement required

Q15. To(A) protect his position, the(B) incompetent official decided to(C) resign(D)
voluntarily.
(a) ADBC
(b) BCAD
(c) No rearrangement required
(d) CABD
(e) DCAB

Q16. Smoking(A) is a(B) major cause(C) of asthma(D) and other respiratory problems(E) in children.
(a) ABCDE
(b) No rearrangement required
(c) ACDBE
(d) CABDE
(e) DCBAE

Q17. Because we(A) had more food(B) than required, we(C) generously offered(D) some to(E) the needy.
(a) ABCDE
(b) ACDBE
(c) No rearrangement required
(d) DACBE
(e) BCEDA

Directions (18-22): Identify the grammatically correct sentence(s).

Q18.
(A) Students showed tepid enthusiasm for the new curriculum.
(B) The National Policy emphasizes imparting education in local languages.
(C) The episode exposes a lack of understanding of the recovery process.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Both (A) and (C)
(c) Both (B) and (C)
(d) Only (C)
(e) None is correct

Q19.
(A) Novices improved faster on visual reading exercises.
(B) Residents were upset to find their area in news for wrong reasons.
(C) Farmers refused to end the strike despite repeated requests.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Both (A) and (C)
(c) Both (B) and (C)
(d) Only (B)
(e) None is correct

Q20.
(A) Chennai has a history of implementing innovative urban models.
(B) Relocations are often governed by ad hoc orders.
(C) Many residents rent out their homes and return to informal settlements.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Both (A) and (C)
(c) Both (B) and (C)
(d) Only (B)

(e) None is correct

Q21.
(A) China is repairing diplomatic ties with Middle Eastern countries.
(B) Canada reported the first climate-related patient.
(C) His words sustained my faith during challenging times.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Both (A) and (C)
(c) Both (B) and (C)
(d) Only (B)
(e) None is correct

Q22.
(A) Israel is becoming increasingly suspicious of other nations.
(B) The percentage of rural children not enrolled doubled during the pandemic.
(C) Delhi has the lowest inflation among metro cities.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Both (A) and (C)
(c) Both (B) and (C)
(d) Only (B)
(e) None is correct

Directions (23-27): Rearrange sentences for a meaningful paragraph.

(A) Animals were seen as powerful symbols in ancient societies.
(B) Civilizations like the Mayans, Egyptians, and Mesopotamians used similar animal symbols.
(C) Animals had extraordinary abilities beyond human capabilities.
(D) There was a willingness to associate animals with the divine.
(E) Ancient humans were deeply dependent on animals.

Q23. First sentence: (E)
Q24. Second sentence: (C)
Q25. Third sentence: (A)
Q26. Fourth sentence: (D)
Q27. Last sentence: (B)

Directions (28-30): Idioms/phrasal verbs

Q28. Take off
(A) I'll take off now and see you later.
(B) The airplane will take off in ten minutes.
(C) The medicine will take off the fever.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C)
(d) Only (A) and (B)

(e) Only (B) and (C)

Q29. Up in arms
(A) Villagers are up in arms over the new factory.
(B) Children jumped up in arms with excitement.
(C) He was up in arms against unfair rules.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C)
(d) Only (A) and (C)
(e) All of the above

Q30. On cloud nine
(A) She was on cloud nine after her promotion.
(B) The government may increase taxes, cloud nine aside.
(C) I've been on cloud nine since my wedding.
(a) Only (A)
(b) Only (B)
(c) Only (C)
(d) Only (A) and (C)
(e) All of the above

Directions (31-35): Table-based questions

Stores | Total items | % of refrigerators | ACs sold
A | 600 | 30% | 120
B | 900 | 50% | 135
C | 1100 | 40% | 220
D | 1400 | 55% | 280

Q31. Total ovens sold by C & D together is what percent less than refrigerators sold by A & D together?
(a) 20%
(b) 25%
(c) 22%
(d) 18%
(e) 16%

Q32. Difference between average ovens sold by B & D and refrigerators sold by C?
(a) 260
(b) 240
(c) 250
(d) 150
(e) 200

Q33. If store X sold 20% more refrigerators than D and 50% more ovens than A, total refrigerators & ovens sold by X?

(a) 1280
(b) 1380
(c) 1180
(d) 1480
(e) 1500

Q34. Ratio of ACs sold by C & D together to ACs & refrigerators sold by B?
(a) 8:9
(b) 9:8
(c) 9:7
(d) 4:3
(e) 6:5

Q35. Total refrigerators sold by A & C together are what percent more than ovens sold by C?
(a) 63 2/3%
(b) 60 2/3%
(c) 33 1/3%
(d) 66 2/3%
(e) 69 2/3%

Directions (36-40): Solve equations

Q36.
I. $x^2 - 7x + 12 = 0$
II. $y^2 + 5y + 6 = 0$
(a) x ≥ y
(b) x > y
(c) x ≤ y
(d) x < y
(e) x = y or no relation

Q37.
I. $x^2 - 14x + 40 = 0$
II. $y^2 - 16y + 60 = 0$
(a) x ≥ y
(b) x > y
(c) x ≤ y
(d) x < y
(e) x = y or no relation

Q38.
I. $x^2 - 11x + 28 = 0$
II. $y^2 - 10y + 21 = 0$
(a) x ≥ y
(b) x > y
(c) x ≤ y

(d) x < y
(e) x = y or no relation

Q39.
I. $7x^2 + 9x - 4 = 0$
II. $y^2 - 5y + 6 = 0$
(a) x ≥ y
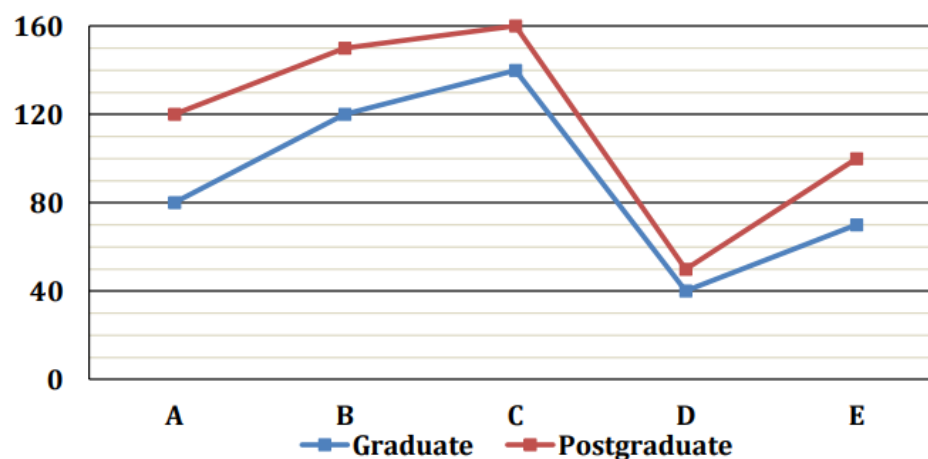(b) x > y
(c) x ≤ y
(d) x < y
(e) x = y or no relation

Q40.
I. $x^2 + 6x + 9 = 0$
II. $y^2 + 12y + 36 = 0$
(a) x ≥ y
(b) x > y
(c) x ≤ y
(d) x < y
(e) x = y or no relation

Directions (41–45): The line chart shows the number of **graduate** and **postgraduate** students in five different colleges (A, B, C, D, and E). Study the line chart carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Q41. The total number of students (graduate + postgraduate) in College A together is what percent more or less than the total number of postgraduate students in College B and College E together?
(a) 80%
(b) 30%
(c) 50%
(d) 20%
(e) 60%

Q42. The ratio of boys to girls among graduate students and postgraduate students in College C is 3 : 2 and 5 : 3 respectively.
Find the ratio of the total number of boys (graduate + postgraduate) in College C to the total number of graduate students in College B.
(a) 7 : 5
(b) 23 : 15
(c) 3 : 2
(d) 21 : 13
(e) 4 : 3

Q43. The total number of graduate students in College C and College E together is what percent of the total students (graduate + postgraduate) in College D?
(a) 233 1⁄3 %
(b) 266 2⁄3 %
(c) 250%
(d) 225%
(e) 275%

Q44. The total number of graduate students in College X is 90 more than the total number of graduate students in College E.
The ratio of boys to girls among graduate students in College B and College X is 11 : 9 and 3 : 7 respectively.
Find the total number of girls among graduate students in College B and College X together.
(a) 145
(b) 128
(c) 134
(d) 166
(e) None of the above

Q45. The average number of postgraduate students in Colleges B, C, and D is how much more or less than the total number of graduate students in Colleges A and E together?
(a) 10
(b) 20
(c) 30
(d) 50
(e) 40

Q46. A man spent 25% of his monthly income on house rent, 20% of the remaining on food. From the rest, the ratio of clothing to savings is 5:8, and the difference between food and clothing expenditure is Rs. 1200. Find his income for 12 months?
(a) Rs. 90000
(b) Rs. 96000
(c) Rs. 108000
(d) Rs. 144000
(e) Rs. 120000

Q47. The ratio of speed of a boat in still water to the speed of stream is 9:4. Total time to cover distance 'D' downstream and upstream is 36 hours. Find time to cover '2D' in still water?
(a) 20 hours
(b) 18 hours
(c) 22 hours
(d) 16 hours
(e) 15 hours

Q48. Length of train A is 180 meters and train B is 'l' meters. Train A and B crosses a pole in 9 sec and 27 sec respectively. If speed ratio is 4:3, find time for train A to cross train B running in opposite directions?
(a) 18 sec
(b) 21 sec
(c) 20 sec
(d) 24 sec
(e) 16 sec

Q49. A shopkeeper marked an article at 50% above cost price and sold it at 20% discount, earning Rs. 600. Cost price of article B is 30% more than A, and profit is same. Find selling price of B?
(a) Rs. 3000
(b) Rs. 3120
(c) Rs. 3300
(d) Rs. 3500
(e) Rs. 3600

Q50. 12 men and 16 women can finish a work in 24 days. If 6 men join, they complete 70% of the work in 12 days. How long will 30 women take to complete twice the work?
(a) 90 days
(b) 75 days
(c) 120 days
(d) 100 days
(e) 80 days

Direction (51–55): Read carefully.

A store sold X jackets, sweaters, and sweatshirts of two brands – Puma and Reebok. 50% of items are jackets, and jackets:sweatshirts = 8:7. Puma:sweater = 3:2. There are 36 Reebok sweatshirts. Total Reebok items = 150.

Q51. Difference between total Puma and Reebok items?
(a) 140
(b) 120
(c) 160

(d) 180
(e) 200

Q52. Total Puma sweaters are what percent less than Reebok jackets?
(a) 10%
(b) 12.5%
(c) 15%
(d) 8%
(e) 14%

Q53. Average number of Puma items?
(a) 100
(b) 120
(c) 110
(d) 90
(e) 130

Q54. Ratio of Puma sweatshirts to total Reebok items?
(a) 12:17
(b) 10:17
(c) 7:17
(d) 8:17
(e) 9:17

Q55. Puma sweatshirts are what percent more than Reebok sweaters?
(a) 140%
(b) 160%
(c) 180%
(d) 200%
(e) 120%

Direction (56–60): Series

Q56. 29, 34, 46, 65, ?, 131
(a) 89
(b) 87
(c) 91
(d) 93
(e) 95

Q57. 190, 162, 138, 116, ?, 74
(a) 92
(b) 96
(c) 94
(d) 98
(e) 90

Q58. 3, 18, 81, 240, ?, 1113
(a) 480
(b) 486
(c) 492
(d) 484
(e) 488

Q59. 410, ?, 205, 112, 60, 32
(a) 230
(b) 218
(c) 212
(d) 224
(e) 208

Q60. 6, 8, 12, 28, 108, ?
(a) 420
(b) 432
(c) 426
(d) 438
(e) 440

Q61. P & Q invest. Q's investment is 20% more. After 6 months, P doubles, Q withdraws 1/4. Total profit Rs. 13600. Share of P?
(a) Rs. 7200
(b) Rs. 6400
(c) Rs. 8000
(d) Rs. 5600
(e) Rs. 8400

Q62. Scheme X: Rs. P at 15% p.a. compound annually 2 years. Total amount reinvested in scheme Y at 6% simple interest for 2 years. Interest from Y as % of X?
(a) 40%
(b) 36%
(c) 38%
(d) 16%
(e) 32%

Q63. Four years ago, A's age = half of B + 4. Eight years hence, average age = 40. Ratio of age of A:B two years hence?
(a) 5:6
(b) 7:10
(c) 5:7
(d) 7:9
(e) 3:4

Q64. Milk:Water = 4:3. 35 L mixture removed, 28 L water added. New ratio 5:4. Find initial mixture.

(a) 112 L
(b) 98 L
(c) 140 L
(d) 126 L
(e) 154 L

Q65. Radius X:Y = 5:6. Circumference of X + diameter of Y = 154 cm. Side of square: sum of radii = 9:8. Perimeter of square?
(a) 200 cm
(b) 208 cm
(c) 216 cm
(d) 224 cm
(e) 232 cm

Direction (66–70): Linear seating.

Q66. Associate Manager?
(a) B
(b) E
(c) K
(d) H
(e) None

Q67. Immediate right of G?
(a) A
(b) D
(c) E
(d) K
(e) None

Q68. Persons between CMD & K?
(a) 3
(b) 4
(c) 2
(d) 5
(e) None

Q69. D's designation?
(a) Manager
(b) CEO
(c) MD
(d) CMD
(e) None

Q70. Position of A w.r.t CEO?
(a) Second to left
(b) Immediate left

(c) Immediate right
(d) Third to right
(e) None

Direction (71–75): Coding

Q71. Code for 'Exam'?
(a) ht
(b) bt
(c) rt
(d) st
(e) None

Q72. Code for 'Attempt Analysis'?
(a) ct st
(b) gt st
(c) ct rt
(d) st ht
(e) None

Q73. 'bj' stands for?
(a) Score
(b) Rank
(c) Result
(d) Advantage
(e) Can't say

Q74. Words for code 'ct rt nt'?
(a) Practice Attempt Result
(b) Attempt Result Advantage
(c) Exam Analysis Score
(d) Rank Score Attempt
(e) None

Q75. Code for 'Analysis'?
(a) rt
(b) ht
(c) nt
(d) st
(e) None

Direction (76–78): Circular seating with ages.

Q76. Second to right of T?
(a) Immediate right of V
(b) The one aged 16
(c) The one aged 27

(d) V
(e) None

Q77. Age of R?
(a) 16
(b) 25
(c) 15
(d) 27
(e) None

Q78. 21-year-old?
(a) The one facing R
(b) S
(c) Immediate left of R
(d) Either b or c
(e) None

Direction (79–80): Series

Q79. 18th from right?
(a) 6
(b) L
(c) S
(d) I
(e) None

Q80. Symbols immediately after consonant & before number?
(a) 1
(b) None
(c) 2
(d) 3
(e) More than three

Q81. 'OPERATION', consonants = previous, vowels = next. How many vowels in new word?
(a) One
(b) Two
(c) Three
(d) Four
(e) None

Direction (82–84): Statements & conclusions

Q82. Only conclusion I follows?
(a) If only conclusion I follows

Q83. Only conclusion I follows?

(e) If only conclusion I follows

Q84. Only conclusion II follows?
(b) Only conclusion II follows

Direction (85–86): Triangular table

Q85. 3rd left of S?
(a) Violet
(b) T
(c) Immediate left of U
(d) U
(e) Both a & d

Q86. Correct pair?
(a) P-White
(b) Q-Violet
(c) S-White
(d) T-Blue
(e) U-Green

Directions (87–91): Study the information carefully and answer the questions given below.

Ten persons A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J were born (not necessarily in the same order) either on 5th or 20th of five different months – January, March, June, September and November.

Three persons were born between C and F and both were born on the same date. Two persons were born between F and G. G was born either in March or November. The number of persons born between G and E is same as the number of persons born between D and H. H was born in June. I was born just before A, who was born after G. B was born just before the month in which J was born. E was born after D. C was not born in January. J was not the eldest person.

Q87. How many persons were born between A and D?
(a) One
(b) Two
(c) Three
(d) Four
(e) None

Q88. Who among the following was born on 20th September?
(a) B
(b) C
(c) F
(d) J

(e) E

Q89. The number of persons born between B and I is same as the number of persons born after whom?
(a) D
(b) A
(c) E
(d) H
(e) None

Q90. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way. Find the odd one out.
(a) A
(b) C
(c) E
(d) G
(e) I

Q91. Who among the following was born before June?
(a) J
(b) I
(c) F
(d) B
(e) E

Q92. If 2 is added to each even digit and 1 is subtracted from each odd digit in the number 7483952614, then how many digits will appear more than once in the new number formed?
(a) One
(b) Two
(c) Three
(d) Four
(e) None

Directions (93–97): Study the information carefully and answer the questions given below.

Six persons P, Q, R, S, T and U live in a three-storey building. Floor 1 is the lowest and floor 3 is the topmost. Each floor has two flats – Flat A (west) and Flat B (east). Each person likes a different fruit – Apple, Banana, Mango, Orange, Grapes and Papaya.

S lives immediately above Q in the same flat. P lives on an even-numbered floor and does not like Mango. The one who likes Apple lives below the one who likes Banana. T lives on the top floor and likes Grapes. R lives in Flat B and is not on floor 2. The one who likes Papaya lives on floor 1. U does not like Orange. One of the persons likes Mango.

Q93. Who among the following likes Mango?
(a) P
(b) Q
(c) S
(d) U
(e) None

Q94. Which of the following statements is true?
(a) R lives on floor 1
(b) Q likes Banana
(c) P lives in Flat B
(d) S lives on floor 2
(e) None is true

Q95. Who lives in Flat B on the top floor?
(a) P
(b) R
(c) T
(d) U
(e) S

Q96. Who lives immediately below the one who likes Grapes?
(a) R
(b) S
(c) Q
(d) U
(e) None

Q97. Who among the following lives immediately above P?
(a) Q
(b) R
(c) T
(d) U
(e) None

Directions (98–100): In these questions, a relationship between different elements is shown in the statements. The statements are followed by two conclusions.

(a) If only conclusion I follows
(b) If only conclusion II follows
(c) If either conclusion I or II follows
(d) If neither conclusion I nor II follows
(e) If both conclusions I and II follow

Q98. Statement: $A \geq B > C \leq D = E < F$
Conclusion:
I. $F > C$

II. A > E
(e)

Q99. Statement: M < N ≥ P = Q < R > S
Conclusion:
I. R > N
II. P < S
(c)

Q100. Statement: K ≥ L < M > N ≤ O
Conclusion:
I. M > L
II. K ≥ O
(a)

Solutions

Reading Comprehension (Q1–Q7)
Q1. (b)
Q2. (c)
Q3. (a)
Q4. (d)
Q5. (e)
Q6. (a)
Q7. (b)

Fill in the Blanks (Q8–Q12)
Q8. (b)
Q9. (e)
Q10. (b)
Q11. (e)
Q12. (a)

Sentence Rearrangement (Q13–Q17)
Q13. (a)
Q14. (a)
Q15. (c)
Q16. (b)
Q17. (c)

Grammatically Correct Sentences (Q18–Q22)
Q18. (c)
Q19. (c)
Q20. (b)
Q21. (b)
Q22. (c)

Paragraph Arrangement (Q23–Q27)
Q23. (E)
Q24. (C)
Q25. (A)
Q26. (D)
Q27. (B)

Idioms / Phrasal Verbs (Q28–Q30)
Q28. (d)
Q29. (d)
Q30. (d)

Table-Based DI (Q31–Q35)
Q31. (d)
Q32. (c)
Q33. (b)
Q34. (d)
Q35. (a)

Quadratic Equations (Q36–Q40)
Q36. (e)
Q37. (a)
Q38. (e)
Q39. (c)
Q40. (b)

Line Chart DI (Q41–Q45)
Q41. (c)
Q42. (b)
Q43. (a)
Q44. (d)
Q45. (b)

Arithmetic (Q46–Q50)
Q46. (d)
Q47. (d)
Q48. (d)
Q49. (b)
Q50. (c)

Caselet / Data Sufficiency (Q51–Q55)
Q51. (c)
Q52. (b)
Q53. (c)
Q54. (c)
Q55. (c)

Number Series (Q56–Q60)
Q56. (c)
Q57. (b)
Q58. (b)
Q59. (c)
Q60. (b)

Quant Miscellaneous (Q61–Q65)
Q61. (c)
Q62. (c)
Q63. (c)
Q64. (c)
Q65. (c)

Linear Seating (Q66–Q70)
Q66. (d)
Q67. (b)
Q68. (c)
Q69. (c)
Q70. (c)

Coding–Decoding (Q71–Q75)
Q71. (c)
Q72. (c)
Q73. (b)
Q74. (b)
Q75. (c)

Circular Seating (Q76–Q78)
Q76. (b)
Q77. (b)
Q78. (b)

Miscellaneous Reasoning (Q79–Q81)
Q79. (c)
Q80. (e)
Q81. (c)

Statements & Conclusions (Q82–Q84)
Q82. (a)
Q83. (e)
Q84. (b)

Triangular Arrangement (Q85–Q86)
Q85. (e)
Q86. (b)

Month–Date Puzzle (Q87–Q92)
Q87. (d)
Q88. (c)
Q89. (d)
Q90. (d)
Q91. (d)
Q92. (c)

Floor Puzzle (Q93–Q97)
Q93. (c)
Q94. (d)
Q95. (c)
Q96. (b)
Q97. (d)

Inequality (Q98–Q100)
Q98. (e)
Q99. (c)

Q100. (a)