

Maximum Marks: 8

I. In 1820, a British thinker named James Mill wrote an essay against giving everyone the right to vote. He argued that a country does not need to let every adult vote. Mill claimed that the interests of women were already taken care of by their husbands or fathers. He also believed that poor or uneducated people could not make wise political choices. In his view, they should let the wealthy middle class make decisions for them as they are main participants in the economy hence they care more about the Country. Mill supported a Limited franchise system—a setup where voting was kept limited to a small group of wealthy, educated men. Other countries even kept people with physical disabilities away from voting by making polling places impossible to reach. Disability rights advocates, like Judy Heumann, strongly fought against this exclusion. She argued that true equality is about "equity of access". Heumann argued that a person's physical condition does not change their right to have a voice. She argued that when governments fail to make voting places accessible, they make disabled people invisible and lock them out of democracy. In November 1949, the creators of the Indian Constitution completely rejected James Mill's ideas. Leaders like Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar believed that a fair country could only be built by trusting the common people. Even though India faced high poverty and low literacy at that time, India adopted Universal Adult Franchise from day one.

1. Identify the main reason James Mill used to argue that women did not need an independent right to vote.

- A) The civic duties of women were restricted exclusively to municipal governance rather than national assemblies.
- B) The political interests of women were already fully represented through their male family members.
- C) The legislative bodies of the era lacked the constitutional authority to pass laws applying to women.
- D) The female electorate was expected to exercise its political franchise through separate assemblies.

2. Select the option that accurately captures the true difference of opinion between James Mill and Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar.

- A) Mill correctly stated that male family members protect women's interests, but Ayyar falsely claimed that uneducated people cannot make political choices.
- B) Mill demanded an immediate vote for every poor adult citizen, while Ayyar wanted to keep voting restricted to wealthy, educated men to protect the state.
- C) Ayyar believed poor citizens should get votes of much higher mathematical value to correct the denial of their basic rights for past centuries.
- D) Mill believed a citizen's interests could be safely represented by others, while Ayyar believed every individual must protect their own rights with an equal vote.

3. Assertion (A): Judy Heumann argued that governments must provide full physical access to polling places for citizens with disabilities.

Reason (R): The Indian Constitution changed the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years in 1988 to include younger perspectives in democracy.

- A) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- C) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

4. Select the option that shows why James Mill's idea of a limited voting system was seen as having some practical value at that time.

- A) It saved a lot of money for the government because they did not have to print paper ballots or build local voting centers.

- B) It completely stopped all arguments in society and guaranteed that citizens would never protest against the government again.
- C) It forced wealthy landowners to share their extra money and property equally with the poor working class.
- D) It ensured that laws were made by educated people who owned property and cared about the country's economic success.

5. Select the option that correctly describes how Article 326 of the Indian Constitution works for citizens.

- A) It lets rich people cast multiple votes to protect their business interests and property.
- B) It allows busy citizens to send a representative to take decisions on their behalf.
- C) It ensures that one vote will have Equal value for every registered adult citizen.
- D) It changes the value of a vote based on the person's school education level.

II. For many years, people treated nature like something they completely owned. In Australia, massive areas of forests were cut down for cities and farms, and water was used up quickly. Many believed humans could take whatever they wanted without any bad results. However, huge, unstoppable forest fires across Australia broke this belief. The fires burned millions of acres, showing that human technology cannot control the raw power of nature. The disaster was a harsh warning that we must use nature's gifts with care. Millions of unique animals—like koalas and kangaroos—lost their homes or lives. This loss made people around the world sad, starting a global movement to protect all living things. To help the forests heal, Australia is now focusing on sustainable development—using resources carefully today so that the future generation also has enough. Instead of trying to control nature, people are learning from it. A major step is bringing back Cool Burning, an ancient method used by native communities. Rangers light small, cool, controlled fires during the wet season to clear away dry grass. This old wisdom keeps the forest healthy, protects animal homes, and stops giant, unstoppable wildfires from happening in the future.

6. Select the option that shows the correct difference between the old belief and the new lesson taught by the fires.

- A) The old belief said humans can control nature, while the new lesson shows we must live with nature.
- B) The old belief said nature is useless, while the new lesson shows that humans should never enter a forest again.
- C) The old belief wanted to save wild animals, while the new lesson wants to cut down all the remaining trees.
- D) The old belief said forests do not need water, while the new lesson says human technology is always perfect.

7. Assertion (A): Modern communities in Australia are bringing back the old "cool burning" methods taught by native communities.

Reason (R): Natural resources like forests and fresh water can disappear if we use them carelessly without any limits.

- A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C) (A) is true but (R) is false.
- D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

8. Based on the text, how exactly is Australia practicing sustainable development to protect its forests for the future?

- A) By using advanced human technology to completely stop the summer season from causing any temperature rise.
- B) By letting dry grass grow freely throughout the year so that wild animals have a constant supply of food.
- C) By lighting small, controlled fires during the Monsoon to safely clear away dry grass before the dangerous summer arrives.

D) By permanently banning humans from entering the forests so that nature can manage its own resource cycle without any help.

ANSWER KEY

1.B

2.D

3.A

4.D

5.C

6.A

7.A

8.C