

**THE HARDER THE CONFLICT  
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**VMTC2262**

**VIDHIGYA**

# VIDHIGYA

VMTC2262

## English Language

### Passage 1

In here, my aim is to explain Vātsyāyana's solution to a problem that arises for his theory of liberation. For him and most Nyāya philosophers after him, liberation consists in the absolute cessation of pain (ātyantika-duḥkha-vimukti). Since this requires freedom from embodied existence, it also results in the absolute cessation of pleasure. How, then, can agents like us (who habitually seek pleasure) be rationally motivated to seek liberation? Vātsyāyana's solution depends on what I will call the Pain Principle, i.e., the principle that we should treat all aspects of our embodied existence as pain. If we were to follow this advice, we would come to apply the label of pain (duḥkha-saṃjñā) to all aspects of our embodied existence, including pleasure. This would undermine our attachment to our own embodied existence. I show that this fits with Vātsyāyana's general theory of motivation. According to this theory, by manipulating the labels (saṃjñā) using which we think about the world and ourselves, we can induce radical shifts in our patterns of motivation.

Nyāya philosophers since Pakṣilasvāmin Vātsyāyana (4th or 5th century CE) have thought that liberation (apavarga or mokṣa) is one of the highest goods (niḥśreyasa) of human existence; it is the highest good that the science of the self (adhyātma-vidyā) promotes. Nyāya is a science of critical inquiry (āṅvikṣikī). It assists the science of the self (or functions as a science of the self itself) in two ways. On the one hand, it yields an awareness of the truth (tattva-jñāna) about various epistemological tools, e.g., the means of knowing (pramāṇa), etc. The knowledge of these tools is necessary for inquiring into liberation and the means to achieve it. On the other hand, Nyāya supplies us with an awareness of the truth about the knowable entities (prameya), e.g, the self (ātman), the body (śarīra), etc. Discovering that truth liberates us.

**[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt of the article titled "Vātsyāyana's Guide to Liberation" from the Journal of Indian Philosophy]**

1. Which of the following is not associated with Nyaya as per the passage?

- (a) Nyaya ultimately leads to liberation of the soul. (b) Nyaya is knowledge to ask critical questions.  
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

2. What can be inferred from the phrase "embodied existence" in the context of the passage?

- I. Significance of animalistic traits of human existence  
II. Personification of every trait of human emotions  
III. To match up with Vātsyāyana's theory of liberation

- (a) Only I (b) Only III (c) I and II (d) Only II

3. Which of the following can be a suitable antonym for the word "undermine" in the context of the passage?

- (a) Enhance (b) Sap (c) Insidious (d) Diminish

4. The author's Pain Principle fits in with-

- (a) Only pain can lead to discovery of truth (b) Vātsyāyana's Nyaya philosophy  
(c) Vātsyāyana's theory of liberation (d) Equating pain and pleasure

5. What is the contextual meaning of "inquiry" in the passage?

- (a) An outward search for truth about everyone. (b) An informal way of asking  
(c) A systematic search for the truth or facts about something (d) A general way search

### Passage - 2

In Roman times, defeated enemies were put to death as criminals for having offended the emperor of Rome. In the Middle Ages, the practice of ransoming, or returning prisoners in exchange for money, became common. Though people viewed them as a more humane society, the primary reasons behind it were economic rather than humanitarian. Those days, rulers had only a limited ability to raise taxes. They could neither force their subjects to fight nor pay them to do so. The promise of material compensation in the form of goods and ransom was the only way of inducing combatants to participate in a war. The incentive for the soldier to participate in a war was the expectation of spoils. Although collecting ransom brought financial gain, keeping a prisoner and arranging for his exchange had its costs. Consequently, several

procedures were devised to reduce transaction costs. One, every prisoner had to assess his own value. This compelled the prisoner to establish a value without much distortion; too low a value would increase the captive's chances of being killed, while too high a value would either ruin him financially or create a prohibitively expensive ransom that would also result in death. Second was to release a prisoner on his word of honour. This procedure was advantageous to both parties since the captor was relieved of the expense of keeping the prisoner while the captive had freedom of movement. The captor benefited financially by having his captive raise the ransom himself. This "parole" was a viable practice since the released prisoner risked recapture or retaliation against his family. Moreover, in medieval society, breaking one's word had serious consequences. Third was the use of specialized institutions to establish contact between the two parties. Professional dealers acted as brokers, and members of religious orders acted as neutral intermediaries. Dealers advanced money for the ransom and charged interest on the loan. Two of the religious orders that became intermediaries were the Mercedarians and the Trinitarians, who between them arranged the ransom of nearly one million prisoners.

**6.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) A medieval soldier was less likely to kill captured members of opposing armies than was a soldier of the Roman Empire.
- (b) A medieval soldier was similar to a 20th-century terrorist in that he operated on a basically independent level and was motivated solely by economic incentives.
- (c) A medieval soldier was motivated to spare prisoners' lives by humanitarian ideals rather than economic ideals.
- (d) A medieval soldier had no respect for his captured enemies since captives were typically regarded as weak.

**7.** Which of the following best describes the change in policy from executing prisoners in Roman times to ransoming prisoners in the Middle Ages?

- (a) The emperors of Rome demanded more respect than did medieval rulers and thus Roman subjects went to greater lengths to defend their nation.
- (b) It was a reflection of the lesser degree of direct control medieval rulers had over their subjects.
- (c) It became a show of strength and honour for warriors of the Middle Ages to be able to capture and return their enemies.
- (d) Medieval soldiers were not as humanitarian as their ransoming practices might have indicated.

**8.** A soldier's decision to spare an adversary's life be linked historically to which of the following?

- (a) The economic relationship of the warring states
- (b) The ease with which a soldier could capture and subsequently imprison his enemy
- (c) The economic gain from taking an enemy prisoner rather than killing him in combat
- (d) The desire for soldiers to uphold their word of honour

**9.** Which of the following can be inferred about the process of arranging ransoms during medieval times from the passage?

- (a) It was more lucrative for medieval soldiers and kings than the winning of spoils.
- (b) It was as costly as a procedure that it was not economically worthwhile for the captors.
- (c) It was handled only through Mercedarian intermediaries.
- (d) It was a potential source of income for others aside from the captors of the prisoners.

**10.** Which of the following is untrue as per the passage EXCEPT?

- (a) The counterincentive for the soldier to participate in a war was the expectation of spoils.
- (b) Members of religious orders acted as neutral intermediaries.
- (c) Only few prisoners had to assess their own value, for remaining soldiers it was the captors who decided their value.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

### *Passage - 3*

Does time exist? The answer to this question may seem obvious: of course it does! Just look at a calendar or a clock. But developments in physics suggest the non-existence of time is an open possibility, and one that we should take seriously.

How can that be, and what would it mean? It'll take a little while to explain, but don't worry: even if time doesn't exist, our lives will go on as usual. For the past century or so, we have explained the universe with two wildly successful physical theories: general relativity and quantum mechanics. Quantum mechanics describes how things work in the incredibly tiny world of particles and particle interactions. General relativity describes the big picture of gravity and how objects move. Both theories work extremely well in their own right, but the two are thought to conflict with one another. Though the exact nature of the conflict is controversial, scientists generally agree both theories need to be replaced with a new, more general theory. Physicists want to produce a theory of "quantum gravity" that replaces general relativity and quantum mechanics, while capturing the extraordinary success of both. Such a theory would explain how gravity's big picture works at the miniature scale of particles. It turns out that producing a theory of quantum gravity is extraordinarily difficult. One attempt to overcome the conflict between the two theories is string theory. String theory replaces particles with strings vibrating in as many as 11 dimensions. However, string theory faces a further difficulty. String theories provide a range of models that describe a universe broadly like our own, and they don't really make any clear predictions that can be tested by experiments to figure out which model is the right one. In the 1980s and 1990s, many physicists became dissatisfied with string theory and came up with a range of new mathematical approaches to quantum gravity. One of the most prominent of these is loop quantum gravity, which proposes that the fabric of space and time is made of a network of extremely small discrete chunks, or "loops". One of the remarkable aspects of loop quantum gravity is that it appears to eliminate time entirely. Loop quantum gravity is not alone in **abolishing** time: a number of other approaches also seem to remove time as a fundamental aspect of reality.

*[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt of the article titled "Does time exist? Physicists and philosophers think it does not. Explained" published at 'https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/']*

11. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT?

- (a) There aren't any other theories in Physics which have been conclusively proven right.
- (b) Physicists are contemplating combination of the quantum and relativity.
- (c) Time is an imaginary concept.
- (d) It was string theory that succeeded in some way to harmonize leading to quantum gravity.

12. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage EXCEPT?

- (a) Theoretical Physicists only work on unexplainable theories.
- (b) Progress science has made till date can't explain working of space and time.
- (c) String theory can't be proven experimentally.
- (d) No other branch of science is as fundamental as is physics

13. Which of the following can be the central idea of the passage?

- (a) The central idea of the passage can be that how come the universe started be found in the near future through successfully proving named theories.
- (b) The main idea can be that the idea of time can be fictitious and theoretical physicists have tried asserting that idea with reasons.
- (c) The central idea of the passage can be, the amount of time invested by the physicists in their formulation of theories can be utilized somewhere else more beneficially.
- (d) The central idea behind the passage is science has reached the point where we can conclusively prove how universe works.

14. Which of the following is the main criticism of the string theory?

- (a) It tries to combine two completely different theories
- (b) Scientists have successfully disproved this theory through experiment
- (c) Particle physicists find it unappealing as it breaks all concept of science, we believe to be true
- (d) It cannot be proved through experiments thus it makes the theory inconsistent.

15. Which is the antonym of the word "abolishing"?

- (a) Institute
- (b) Annulling
- (c) Rescinding
- (d) Abating

#### Passage 4

Government of India wants to fully vaccinate all adults by December. As a TOI data analysis showed, this will require India to begin administering, on average, 80 lakhs daily till year-end. Right now, limited supplies hinder immediate ramping up.

But the Centre is incentivizing vaccine supplies with bulk orders and advance payments, targeting 1 crore jobs daily from July-August. So, what's the best way forward? As supplies go up, the CoWin-registered and digitally aware will get their jobs relatively easily. The challenge is the roughly 70 crore adults currently outside CoWin's reach.

First, CoWin must be non-mandatory. On-site and pen-and-paper registrations should be allowed. Second, governments need to recognize the private sector has a big role to play here. CoWin data shows there are 34,788 government vaccination sites and just 1,370 private ones. But NSO 2017-18 data reveals that government hospitals accounted for just 33% of ailments treated in rural areas and 26% in urban areas. And in private healthcare, general practitioners and small clinics treated more patients than big hospitals. This clearly suggests Government of India and the state must enlist licensed doctors and small clinics. The US and UK, incidentally allow family physicians to vaccinate their patients. Neighborhood doctors and clinic people are familiar with will also be better persuaders than officials when it comes to addressing vaccine hesitancy. Also, medical and nursing students should be paid and drafted to be vaccinators.

Third, the dreadful supply deficit of doctors and nurses in villages will still be a constraint, so Covid vaccination should follow the model of India's mass inoculation efforts. Almost 74% of rural and 45% of urban children are inoculated at health sub-centres/ health and wellness centres and anganwadis. All 1,50,000 HSC's, HWC's must be used. Each typically serves a population of 3,000 and is staffed by an auxiliary medical nurse, who doubles up as a vaccinator. These centres should coordinate, just as in inoculation programs, with ASHA workers to bring in people.

Fourth, even after such a massive effort, this continent-sized country will need vaccines on wheels- mobile vaccination centres for remote areas and many villages. The Centre has mooted near-to-door vaccinations and opposed door-to-door vaccination citing the risk of adverse events and vaccine wastage. Near-to-door is a useful model, but it will work mostly in urban, semi-urban settings. Therefore, taking a rigid stand against door-to-door jabs or vaccines-on-wheels won't help. Let the state decide on these details. The Centre should primarily focus on ensuring the vaccine supply line keep humming.

**[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt from the article titled "Record 88 lakh doses in a day" published at <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>]**

16. Which of the following can be the tone of the author in the above passage?

- (a) Informative                      (b) Analytical                      (c) Descriptive                      (d) Suggestive

17. "The Centre has mooted near-to-door vaccinations". Which of the following word can replace the underlined word in the sentence?

- (a) proposed                      (b) helped                      (c) silenced                      (d) authorized

18. Which of the following can be an appropriate title for the given passage?

- (a) India against Covid-19.      (b) Vaccine Hesitancy                      (c) Jabbing India                      (d) Supply of Vaccine

19. Which of the following can be the reason of author's suggestion of introducing 'vaccine on wheels' in the passage?

- (a) Lack of storage of vaccines  
 (b) To ensure that people of outer vicinity also get vaccinated  
 (c) Both (a) and (b)  
 (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

20. According to the author, how Indian adults may be vaccinated:

- (a) By implementing the door-to-door model for vaccination.      (b) By Online registrations.  
 (c) ASHA workers can be drafted to bring in people                      (d) All of the above

#### Passage - 5

At a meeting of countries with the world's highest GDPs — the G20 — Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, especially as winter nears. He also called for the international community to provide Afghanistan with "immediate and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance". The meeting came as the UNHCR published a new appeal for funds, with a report that half the population (more than 20 million people) are in need of "lifesaving humanitarian assistance", and the UN has received only 35% of the funds needed for its relief operations. As a result of the Taliban takeover, most direct aid to the Afghan government has dried up; its reserves have been frozen by the U.S., making it impossible for salaries to be paid. The Taliban government's refusal to allow women to work and its stopping girls from schooling have made the situation more dire. While recognition of the Taliban and any governmental engagement is a long way off, the world is faced with the stark choice on how to ensure Afghanistan does not suffer further.

At the summit, the EU committed \$1.15 billion for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries where refugees have fled, while other countries including the U.S. and China pledged \$1.1 billion at a donor conference in Geneva last month. India has not announced any monetary or food assistance.

The PM's words are a welcome sign that the Government remains seized of the welfare of ordinary Afghans even as New Delhi has closed its embassy but maintains only a limited exchange with Taliban officials in Doha. Given the manner of the Taliban's takeover in August, with support from Pakistan, maintaining links with terror groups including those that target India leaves the Government hard put to increase its engagement, or to send aid directly to the new regime. But India could contribute to international agencies that are working with displaced Afghans, particularly for about one million children at the risk of starvation. It could also help Iran and the Central Asian states that are housing refugees with monetary assistance. The Government could also consider liberalising its visa regime for Afghans, which at the moment has cancelled all prior visas to Afghan nationals, and is releasing very few e-visas for Afghans desperate to travel here. As a goodwill gesture, India could once again send food aid, including wheat, grain, fortified biscuits and other packaged food, directly to Kabul. Clearly, the imperative to act is now, at what the UN Secretary General has called a "make or break" moment for the Afghan people, and to heed the warning that if the international community, which includes a regional leader like India, does not help stave off the unfolding humanitarian crisis, not only Afghans but also the rest of the world will pay a "heavy price".

**[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt of the article titled "Aiding Afghans: On G20 meeting on Afghanistan" published at <https://www.thehindu.com/>]**

**21.** Which of the following statements can be inferred with respect to aid to the people of Afghanistan?

- (a) UN has received only 35% of the funds needed for humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.
- (b) Over half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance
- (c) Most direct aid to the Afghan Government has been frozen by sanctions.
- (d) All of the Above

**22.** What is the tone of the author?

- (a) Critical
- (b) Satirical
- (c) Sarcastic
- (d) Advisory

**23.** What is the central idea of the passage?

- (a) The world, along with India, needs to act fast to provide assistance to the people of Afghanistan.
- (b) Taliban is a brutal regime conducting regular human rights violations.
- (c) India needs to lead the world in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.
- (d) The world will pay a heavy price if support to Taliban is not provided fast.

**24.** Which of the following cannot be inferred from the authors conclusion where he took PM Modi's speech except?

- (a) It forms the premise of the author's conclusion.
- (b) It acts as background information.
- (c) It acts as a sub conclusion.
- (d) It plays no part in the author's conclusion.

**25.** What assumption does the author make while making the statement ". As a goodwill gesture, India could once again send food aid, including wheat, grain, fortified biscuits and other packaged food, directly to Kabul"?

- (a) That the Taliban might be willing to accept India's help.
- (b) That Afghanistan needs such supplies.
- (c) That Afghanistan can get these supplies from elsewhere
- (d) Both (a) & (b)

**Passage - 6**

The United Nations is preparing to host pivotal conferences in the coming months on two global crises: climate change and biodiversity loss. As experts have pointed out, these issues are fundamentally, inescapably intertwined. In both cases, human activities are harming nature and the support it provides to people. But that connection also is an opportunity. Protecting places that are both carbon- and species-rich can help slow climate change and biodiversity loss at the same time. For example, in a June 2021 report, U.N. biodiversity experts urged nations to establish strict protected areas and govern forests through "locally adjusted sustainable management practices." I study Mexican Community Forests, and believe they are the world's best model of local sustainable management. My research over 30 years has shown that when Indigenous and local communities control their forests for commercial timber production, both humans and the land benefit. As I write in my book, "Mexico's Community Forest Enterprises: Success on the Commons and the Seeds of a Good Anthropocene," these forests provide hope for a better future than the one now bearing down on us. Mexico's sustainability model: Mexico is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. Much of that life depends on its 165

million acres (65 million hectares), which cover about one-third of the nation's land area. Millions of monarch butterflies migrate from North America to forested hillsides in Mexico's Sierra Madre Mountains every winter. Tropical forests in southern Mexico harbour jaguars, spider monkeys, crocodiles, anteaters and nearly 500 species of birds.

As a result of the 1911-1917 Mexican Revolution, ownership of around 60% of the nation's forests, totalling some 104 million acres (42 million hectares), was transferred to local communities. Over the following decades, reformers subsidized equipment and provided training ..... logging and business for the people who took over these important resources. Community members seized the opportunity. This decades-long experiment, with government support and market incentives, has produced surprising results. Today Mexican community forest enterprises administer their common property woodlands at a scale and current maturity unparalleled anywhere else in the world. Cutting down trees may seem like a counterintuitive way to slow climate change and species loss, but in Mexico it works. Community forest businesses sell profitable products like timber and bottled spring water. Some 1,600 communities sustainably log over 17 million acres of forest. They carefully select only certain trees for harvesting so that forests will vigorously regrow.

**[Extracted (with edits and revisions) an excerpt of the article titled "Mexican communities manage their local forests, generating benefits for humans, trees and wildlife published at <https://whhttps://www.downtoearth.org.in/>]**

- 26.** Which of the following global issues cannot be inferred as a point of concern in light of the passage?  
(a) Melting of ice caps      (b) Global Warming      (c) Climate change      (d) Loss of flora and fauna
- 27.** According to the passage, which of the following can be inferred?  
(a) Mexico is the most biodiverse country in the world.  
(b) The demonstration of Mexico's sustainability model, with the help of private support and market incentives, has produced surprising results.  
(c) Open spring water is sold by Community Forest businesses.  
(d) Ownership of around 40% of the nation's forests was not transferred to local communities.
- 28.** Which of the following is the antonym of harbour?  
(a) Shelter      (b) Port      (c) Peril      (d) Shroud
- 29.** Which of the following can be an appropriate title for the passage ?  
(a) Mexicans : how to nurture nature      (b) America and Mexico nations at war  
(c) Latin nations new paradise      (d) Global warming
- 30.** Describe the tone of the above-mentioned passage  
(a) Descriptive      (b) Opinion      (c) Optimistic      (d) Cheerful
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