Passage 1

Animals, in general, are shrewd in proportion as they cultivate society. Elephants and beavers show the greatest signs of this sagacity when they are together in large numbers, but when man invades their communities they lose all their spirit of industry. Among insects, the labours of the bee and the ant have attracted the attention and admiration of naturalists, but all their sagacity seems to be lost upon separation, and a single bee or ant seems destitute of every degree of industry. It becomes the most stupid insect imaginable, and it languishes and soon dies.

1. **Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?**
   (a) Humankind is responsible for the destruction of the natural habitat of animals and insects.
   (b) Animals, in general, are unable to function effectively outside their normal social environment.
   (c) Naturalists have great admiration for bees and ants, despite their lack of industry upon separation.
   (d) Elephants and beavers are smarter than bees and ants in the presence of human beings.

Passage 2

The company's coffee crop for 2018-19 totalled 8,079 tonnes, an all-time record. The increase over the previous year's production of 5,830 tonnes was 38.58 per cent. The previous highest crop was 6,089 tonnes in 1970-71. The company had fixed a target of 8,000 tonnes to be realized by the year 2020-21, and this has been achieved two years earlier, thanks to the emphasis laid on the key areas of irrigation, replacement of unproductive coffee bushes, intensive refilling and improved agricultural practices. It is now our endeavour to reach the target of 10,000 tonnes in 2021-22.

2. **Which one of the following would contribute most to making the target of 10,000 tonnes in 2021-22 unrealistic?**
   (a) The potential of the productivity enhancing measures implemented up to now has been exhausted.
   (b) The total company land under coffee has remained constant since 1969 when an estate in the Nilgiri Hills was acquired.
   (c) The sensitivity of the crop to climatic factors makes predictions about production uncertain.
   (d) The target-setting procedures in the company had been proved to be sound by the achievement of the 8,000 tonnes target.

Passage 3

Thomas Malthus, the British clergyman-turned economist, predicted that the planet would not be able to support the human population for long. His explanation was that human population grows at a geometric rate, while the food supply grows only at an arithmetic rate.

3. **Which one of the following, if true, would not undermine the thesis offered by Malthus?**
   (a) Population growth can be slowed down by the voluntary choices of individuals and not just by natural disasters.
   (b) The capacity of the planet to feed a growing human population can be enhanced through biotechnological means.
   (c) Human systems, and natural systems like food supply, follow natural laws of growth which have remained constant, and will remain unchanged.
   (d) Human beings can colonize other planetary systems on a regular and ongoing basis to accommodate a growing population.

Passage 4

Cigarettes constitute a mere 20 per cent of tobacco consumption in India, and fewer than 15 per cent of the 200 million tobacco users consume cigarettes. Yet these 15 per cent contribute nearly 90 per cent of the tax revenues to the exchequer from the tobacco sector. The punitive cigarette taxation regime has kept the tax base narrow, and reducing taxes will expand this base.

4. **Which of the following best bolsters the conclusion that reducing duties will expand the tax base?**
   (a) The cigarette manufacturers' association has decided to indulge in aggressive promotion.
   (b) There is a likelihood that tobacco consumers will shift to cigarette smoking if cigarette prices were to reduce.
   (c) The cigarette manufacturers are lobbying for a reduction on duties.
   (d) An increase in duties on non-cigarette tobacco may lead to a shift in favour of cigarette smoking.