

- Q8. Arjun, a 14-year-old boy, notices that his voice has become "crackly" and significantly deeper over the past few months. During a school health check-up, the doctor explains that a hormone called **testosterone** is causing his larynx (voice box) to grow and his vocal cords to thicken. (1)

Based on the doctor's explanation, how should Arjun's voice change be classified in the context of human development?

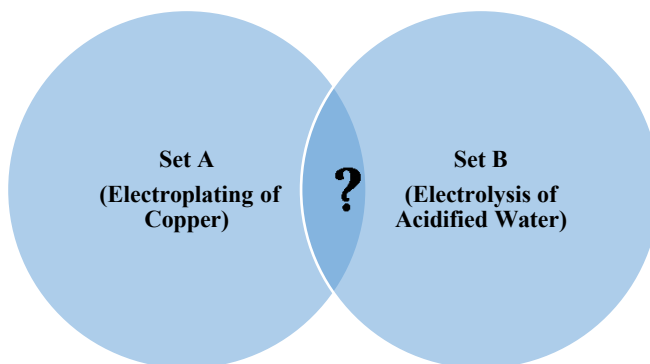
- a) **A Primary Sexual Characteristic**, because the deepening of the voice is a necessary requirement for the physical production of sperm cells.
 - b) **A Secondary Sexual Characteristic**, because it is a physical sign of maturity triggered by hormones that distinguishes him from females but is not an organ used for reproduction.
 - c) **A Behavioural Adaptation**, because Arjun is consciously changing the way he speaks to sound more like the adults in his environment.
 - d) **A Homeostatic Adjustment**, because the thickening of the vocal cords is the body's way of regulating his internal respiratory pH levels during growth spurts.
- Q9. A boy pushes a heavy box across the floor, but it does not move. What can we conclude about the forces acting on the box? (1)
- a) There is no force acting on the box.
 - b) The forces acting on the box are balanced.
 - c) The gravitational force has stopped working.
 - d) The box has no mass.

- Q10. A middle school counsellor is preparing a workshop titled "*The Transition to Adulthood*." She explains that this life stage is characterized by a "growth spurt," the onset of puberty, and a shift toward more independent thinking. She notes that while the exact timing varies for every individual, there is a standard range when most children biologically enter this phase. (1)

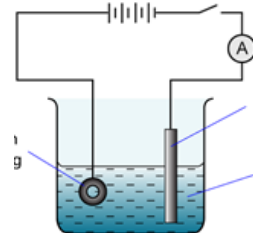
Based on the counsellor's description of the start of **adolescence**, which age group is she most likely targeting for the beginning of this workshop?

- a) **5–7 years**, because this is when children start primary school and begin to develop basic social skills.
- b) **8–10 years**, because this is the late childhood phase where physical growth is most stable and slow.
- c) **11–13 years**, because this typically marks the biological onset of puberty and the transition into the teenage years.
- d) **15–17 years**, because this is the final stage of adolescence where physical growth is almost complete.

- Q11. In a Venn diagram comparing 'Electroplating of Copper' (Set A) and 'Electrolysis of Acidified Water' (Set B), which of the following statements would correctly be placed in the intersection (Both A and B)? (1)



- a) The mass of the cathode remains unchanged while the anode dissolves.
 b) New chemical substances are formed in the form of gases at both electrodes.
 c) The concentration of the electrolyte remains constant throughout the process.
 d) The process involves the movement of cations toward the negative electrode.
- Q12. A student wants to electroplate a metal ring with nickel. They use a nickel sulphate solution as the electrolyte. However, by mistake, the student connects the metal ring to the positive terminal of the battery and the nickel rod to the negative terminal. What is most likely to happen after 20 minutes? (1)



- a) Nickel will deposit on the metal ring.
 b) The metal ring will slowly dissolve into the solution.
 c) Nickel will deposit on the nickel rod.
 d) The solution will not conduct electricity.
- Q13. A solid rectangular brick of mass 4 kg has dimensions 20 cm × 10 cm × 5 cm. The brick is placed on a table in horizontal positions so that different faces touch the surface. What is the pressure exerted by the brick on the table? (Take $g=10 \text{ m/s}^2$) (Use $F= m \cdot g$) (1)

- a) 6000 Pa b) 8000 Pa c) 2000 Pa d) 4000 Pa

SECTION B

Each question consists of two statements, namely Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

For selecting the correct answer use the following code: (Please write the correct option in the box. Do not write the full sentence)

- (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are the true and Reason (R) is a correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are the true but Reason (R) is not a correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 (c) Assertion (A) is true and Reason (R) is false.
 (d) Assertion (A) is false and Reason (R) is true.
 (e) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are incorrect.

- Q14. **Assertion (A):** It is much easier to move a heavy suitcase if it is fitted with wheels than to slide it across the floor. (1)
Reason (R): Rolling friction is significantly smaller in magnitude than sliding friction for the same set of surfaces.
- Q15. **Assertion (A):** Solid sodium chloride (common salt) does not conduct electricity. (1)
Reason (R): When sodium chloride is melted, its ions are free to move and can carry electric current.
- Q16. **Assertion (A):** A plane mirror forms a real image of an object because the light rays physically meet at a point behind the mirror surface. (1)
Reason (R): Image formation in mirrors is primarily a result of **refraction**, where light changes speed and direction as it passes through the silvered glass.
- Q17. **Assertion (A):** The endocrine system is described as a 'chemical messenger system' because it secretes hormones directly into the bloodstream to reach distant target organs. (1)
Reason (R): Hormones are non-nutrient chemicals that act as intercellular messengers and are produced in trace amounts.
- Q18. **Assertion (A):** The process of heating coal strongly in the absence of air to produce coke is known as carbonisation. (1)
Reason (R): Carbonisation involves the thermal decomposition of coal, leaving behind a carbon-rich, porous, and hard residue that serves as an excellent reducing agent.