Important Concepts and Tips to Solve Syllogism Possibility Case Questions

SYLLOGISM – POSSIBILITY CASE

- In these types of questions some statements will be given followed by some conclusions that can be verified from the given statements
- We should ignore the actual meaning of the terms
- These questions can be solved by using Venn diagrams
- When there is no exact conclusion for the given statements then possibility case arises
- If the conclusion is FALSE in one Venn diagram and TRUE in another diagram, then the conclusion is deduced as PARTIALLY TRUE
- PARTIALLY TRUE = TRUE

QUESTION

Directions

Select answer (1) if only conclusion I follow

Select answer (2) if only conclusion II follow

Select answer (3) if either conclusion I or II follows

Select answer (4) if neither conclusion I nor II follows

Select answer (5) if both conclusion I and II follows

Statements

Some plants are animals.

All animals are trees.
Conclusion

I. All animals being plants is a possibility
II. All plants being trees is a possibility

SOLUTION

Consider Statement 1 – Some plants are animals

The Venn diagram of this statement is as follows

\[
\text{plants} \quad \text{animals}
\]

OR

Here, all animals are plants is the possibility
Similarly the Venn diagram for Statement 2 – *All animals are trees* is as follows

Here, *all trees are animals* is the possibility

Now both Statements I and II has a common term *animals*, so the overall Venn diagram can be drawn as follows
Plants     animal     trees

Fig. 1

OR

plants     animals

Fig. 2

OR
Conclusion I: All animals being plants is a possibility

As per Fig. 1, the conclusion I is FALSE (only some animals are plants)

As per Fig. 2, the conclusion I is FALSE (here also only some animals are plants)

As per Fig. 3, the conclusion I is TRUE (all animals are plants)

Hence the Conclusion I is PARTIALLY TRUE which is considered as TRUE

Therefore Conclusion I is TRUE

Similarly, Conclusion II: All plants being trees is a possibility is considered

As per Fig. 1, Conclusion II is FALSE (only some plants are trees)

As per Fig. 2, Conclusion II is TRUE (all plants are trees)
As per Fig.3, Conclusion II is FALSE (only some plants are trees)

Hence the Conclusion II is PARTIALLY TRUE which is considered as **TRUE**

Therefore **Conclusion II is TRUE**

Therefore the Answer will be (5), **both Conclusion I and II follows**