

CAT Verbal Preparation Basic Test 02

DIRECTIONS for questions 1 to 5: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Governments have traditionally equated economic progress with steel mills and cement factories. While urban centers thrive and city dwellers get rich, hundreds of millions of farmers remain mired in poverty. However, fears of food shortages, a rethinking of antipoverty priorities and the crushing recession in 2008 are causing a dramatic shift in world economic policy in favor of greater support for agriculture.

The last time when the world's farmers felt such love was in the 1970s. At that time, as food prices spiked, there was real concern that the world was facing a crisis in which the planet was simply unable to produce enough grain and meat for an expanding population. Governments across the developing world and international aid organizations **plowed** money into agriculture in the early 1970s, while technological breakthroughs, like high-yield strains of important food crops, boosted production. The result was the Green Revolution and food production exploded.

But the Green Revolution became a victim of its own success. Food prices plunged by some 60% by the late 1980s from their peak in the mid-1970s. Policymakers and aid workers turned their attention to other **pressing** needs, such as health care and education. Farming got **starved** of resources and investment. By 2004, aid directed at agriculture sank to 3.5% and "Agriculture lost its glitter." Also, as consumers in high-growth giants such as China and India became wealthier, they began eating more meat, so grain once used for human consumption got diverted to beef up livestock. By early 2008, panicked buying by importing countries and restrictions **slapped** on grain exports by some big producers helped drive prices up to heights not seen for three decades. Making matters worse, land and resources got reallocated to produce cash crops such as bio fuels and the result was that voluminous reserves of grain **evaporated**. Protests broke out across the emerging world and fierce food riots toppled governments.

This spurred global leaders into action. This made them aware that food security is one of the fundamental issues in the world that has to be dealt with in order to maintain administrative and political stability. This also spurred the U.S. which traditionally provisioned food aid from American grain surpluses to help needy nations, to move towards investing in farm sectors around the globe to boost productivity. This move helped countries become more productive for themselves and be in a better position to feed their own people.

Africa, which missed out on the first Green Revolution due to poor policy and limited resources, also witnessed a "change". Swayed by the success of East Asia, the primary poverty-fighting method favored by many policymakers in Africa was to get farmers off their farms and into modern jobs in factories and urban centers. But that strategy proved to be highly insufficient. Income levels in the countryside badly trailed those in cities while the FAO estimated that the number of poor going hungry in 2009 reached an all time high at more than one billion.

In India on the other hand, with only 40% of its farmland irrigated, entire economic boom currently underway is held hostage by the unpredictable monsoon. With much of India's farming areas suffering from drought this year, the government will have a tough time meeting its economic growth targets. In a report, Goldman Sachs predicted that if this year too receives weak rains, it could cause agriculture to contract by 2% this fiscal year, making the government's 7% GDP-growth target look "a bit rich". Another green revolution is the need of the hour and to make it a reality, the global community still has much backbreaking farm work to do.

1. What is the author's main objective in writing the passage?
 1. Criticizing developed countries for not bolstering economic growth in poor nations
 2. Analysing the disadvantages of the Green Revolution
 3. Persuading experts that a strong economy depends on industrialization and not agriculture
 4. Making a case for the International society to engineer a second Green Revolution
 5. Rationalising the faulty agriculture policies of emerging countries
2. Which of the following is an adverse impact of the Green Revolution ?
 1. Unchecked crop yields resulted in large tracts of land becoming barren
 2. Withdrawal of fiscal impetus from agriculture to other sectors
 3. Farmers began soliciting government subsidies for their produce
 4. Farmers rioted as food prices fell so low that they could not make ends meet
 5. None of these
3. What is the author trying to convey through the phrase "making the government's 7% GDP growth target look "a bit rich" ?
 1. India is unlikely to achieve the targeted growth rate
 2. Allocation of funds to agriculture has raised India's chances of having a high GDP
 3. Agricultural growth has artificially inflated India's GDP and such growth is not real
 4. India is likely to have one of the highest GDP growth rates
 5. A large portion of India's GDP is contributed by agriculture
4. Which of the following factors was/were responsible for the neglect of the farming sector after the green revolution ?
 - A. Steel and cement sectors generated more revenue for the government as compared to agriculture.
 - B. Large scale protests against favoring agriculture at the cost of other important sectors such as education and healthcare.
 - C. Attention of policy makers and aid organizations was diverted from agriculture to other sectors.

1. None 2. Only (C) 3. Only (B) & (C) 4. Only (A) & (B) 5. All (A),(B) & (C)
5. What prompted leaders throughout the world to take action to boost the agriculture sector in 2008?
 1. Coercive tactics by the U.S. which restricted food aid to poor nations
 2. The realization of the link between food security and political stability
 3. Awareness that performance in agriculture is necessary in order to achieve the targeted GDP
 4. Reports that high-growth countries like China and India were boosting their agriculture sectors to capture the international markets
 5. Their desire to influence developing nations to slow down their industrial development.

DIRECTIONS for questions 6 to 7: Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

6. STARVED

1. Deprived 2. Disadvantaged 3. Well fed 4. Fasting 5. Full

7. SLAPPED

1. Beaten 2. Imposed 3. Withdrawn 4. Avoided 5. Persuaded

DIRECTIONS for questions 8 to 9: Choose the word/phrase which is most opposite in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

8. PRESSING

1. Unpopular 2. Undemanding 3. Unobtrusive
4. Unsuitable 5. Unimportant

9. EVAPORATED

1. Absorbed 2. Accelerated 3. Grew 4. Plunged 5. Mismanaged

DIRECTIONS for questions 10 to 14: Which of the phrases 1, 2, 3 and 4 given below each statement should be placed in the blank space provided so as to make a meaningful and grammatically correct sentence? If none of the sentences is appropriate, mark 5 i.e. 'None of these' as the answer.

10. Refuting the rationale behind frequent agitations for formation of separate States, a recent report ____.

1. Proved that such agitations result in loss of governmental property
2. Indicated that the formation of small states does not necessarily improve the economy
3. Suggested that only large scale agitations have been effective in bringing out desired change in the past
4. Recommended dividing large states into smaller ones to improve governance
5. None of these

11. Overlooking the fact that water scarcity intensifies during summer, _____.

1. The government issued guidelines to all builders to limit their consumption to acceptable limits
2. Provision for rainwater harvesting has been made to aid irrigation in drought prone areas
3. The water table did not improve even after receiving normal monsoon in the current year
4. Many residential areas continue to use swimming pools, wasting large quantities of water
5. None of these

12. He has lost most of his life's earning in the stock market but _____.

1. He still seems to be leading his life luxuriously and extravagantly
2. He could not save enough to repay his enormous debts
3. Stock market is not a safe option to invest money unless done with caution
4. Experts have been suggesting to avoid investments in stock market because of its unpredictable nature

5. None of these
13. Achieving equality for women is not only a laudable goal, _____.
1. Political reforms are also neglected preventing women from entering legislatures and positions of power
 2. The problem is also deep rooted in the society and supported by it
 3. Their empowerment is purposefully hampered by people with vested interests in all sections of the society
 4. It is also equally difficult to achieve and maintain for a long term
 5. None of these
14. _____ or else they would not keep electing him year after year.
1. The party leader gave a strong message to the mayor for improving his political style
 2. Owing to numerous scandals against the mayor, he was told to resign from the post immediately
 3. The mayor threatened the residents against filing a complaint against him
 4. The residents must really be impressed with the political style of their mayor
 5. None of these

DIRECTIONS for questions 15 to 17: Each question below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

15. Drawing attention towards pitfalls of relying solely on Uranium as a fuel for nuclear reactors, Indian scientists warned that Uranium will not last for long and thus research on Thorium as its _____ must be revived.
- | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------|
| A. Belief | b. Replacement | c. Dependent |
| D. Reserve | e. Substitute | f. Alternative |
1. E & F 2. A & B 3. C & D 4. B & F 5. B & D
16. In an effort to provide _____ for higher education to all, most of the universities have been providing education without adequate infrastructure, thus churning out unemployable graduates every year.
- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| A. Fresh | B. Platform | C. Capable |
| D. Opportunities | E. Prospects | F. Advantage |
1. A & B 2. D & E 3. A & F 4. D & F 5. B & E
17. The move to allow dumping of mercury provoked an outcry from residents of the area who _____ that high levels of mercury will affect their health and destroy ecologically sensitive forest area.
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| A. Insist | B. Fear | C. Dread |
| D. Activate | E. Accept | F. Believe |
1. B & F 2. A & C 3. B & C 4. D & E 5. A & F

DIRECTIONS for questions 18 to 20: Rearrange the following sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) to make a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions which follow :

- A. While these disadvantages of biofuels are serious, they are the only alternate energy source of the future and the sooner we find solutions to these problems, the faster we will be able to solve the problems we are now facing with gasoline.
- B. This fuel can also help to stimulate jobs locally since they are also much safer to handle than gasoline and can thus have the potential to turnaround a global economy.
- C. These include dependence on fossil fuels for the machinery required to produce biofuel which ends up polluting as much as the burning of fossil fuels on roads and exorbitant cost of biofuels which makes it very difficult for the common man to switch to this option.
- D. This turnaround can potentially help to bring world peace and end the need to depend on foreign countries for energy requirements.
- E. Biofuels are made from plant sources and since these sources are available in abundance and can be reproduced on a massive scale they form an energy source that is potentially unlimited.
- F. However everything is not as green with the biofuels as it seems as there are numerous disadvantages involved which at times overshadow their positive impact.

18. Which of the following sentence should be the **FIFTH** after rearrangement?

- 1. A 2. B 3. C 4. E 5. F

19. Which of the following sentence should be the **THIRD** after rearrangement?

- 1. A 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. E

20. Which of the following sentence should be the **FIRST** after rearrangement?

- 1. A 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. E

DIRECTIONS for questions 21 to 25: In the following passage there are blanks each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each five words have been suggested, one of which fills the blanks appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

_____ (21) _____ people breathe, pollutants in the air _____ (22) _____ in the lungs or absorbed into the body. And polluted air can harm animals and plants _____ (23) _____ people. For this reason, our air supply should be _____ (24) _____ watched and managed to assure _____ (25) _____ good quality.

- 21.** 1. When 2. Until 3. During 4. If 5. Just as

- 22.** 1. Have deposited 2. Are depositing 3. Had to be deposited 4. Will have deposited
5. May be deposited

- 23.** 1. As well as 2. In addition 3. Even if 4. In spite of 5. Supposing

- 24.** 1. Alternately 2. Previously 3. Hastily 4. Closely 5. Furtively

25.
1. Them

2. Its

3. His

4. Theirs

5. It top of Form

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ANSWER KEY

1.	5
2.	2
3.	2
4.	3
5.	2
6.	2
7.	3
8.	1
9.	3
10.	1
11.	3
12.	5
13.	3
14.	3
15.	1
16.	4
17.	3
18.	3
19.	4
20.	5
21.	1
22.	4
23.	1
24.	4
25.	2

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EXPLANATIONS

1.	Refer to last para.
2.	Option 4 . given in third para.
3.	Option 1.refer to last par 3rd last line.
4.	Option 2 . first para.
5.	
6.	Synonym of starved is deprived
7.	Synonym of slapped is imposed
8.	Antonym of pressing is unimportant
9.	Antonym of evaporated is grew
10.	if agitations are damaging public property then this is not logical
11.	As residents are overlooking the problem of water scarcity they will keep wasting water.
12.	"but "is giving hint that the next part of the sentence will be of opposite connotation.
13.	it is a laudable goal but maintaing it for a longer period of time will be equally challenging.
14.	the other part of the sentence is talking about they .pronoun they is used for noun "residents" which is given in option 4.
15.	relying solely is a pitfall, so a substitute or alternative should be searched for.
16.	An opportunity and advantage has been given for higher education, but the results are unemployable graduates.
17.	People can only fear and dread about their health.
18.	Correct arrangement is ebdfea

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