

Reading Comprehension Practice Set-1

Passage-1

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

A long time ago, on a big tree in the lap of the mountain, lived a bird named Sindhuka. It was a **rather** special bird because its droppings turned into gold as soon as they hit the ground. One day, a hunter came to the tree in search of prey and he saw Sindhuka's droppings hit the ground and turn into gold. The hunter was struck with wonder. He thought, "I have been hunting birds and small animals since I was a boy, but in all my 80 years, I have never seen such a miraculous creature. He decided that he had to catch the bird somehow. He climbed the tree and **skillfully** set a trap for the bird. The bird, quite unaware of the danger it was in, stayed on the tree and sang merrily. But it was soon caught in the hunter's trap. The hunter immediately seized it and shoved it into a cage. The hunter took the bird home joyfully. But as he had time to think over his Good fortune later, he suddenly realized, "If the king comes to know of this wonder, he will certainly take away the bird from me and he might even punish me for keeping such a rare treasure all to myself. So it would be safer and more honorable if I were to go to the king and present the unique bird to him," The next day, the hunter took the bird to the king and presented it to him in court with great **reverence**. The king was delighted to receive such an unusual and rare gift. He told His courtiers to keep the bird safe and feed it with the best bird food available. The king's prime minister though, was **reluctant** to accept the bird. He said "O Rajah, how can you believe the word of a foolish hunter accept this bird? Has anyone in our kingdom ever seen bird dropping gold? The hunter must be either crazy or telling lies. I think it is best that you **release** the bird from the cage." After a little thought, the king felt that his prime minister's words were correct. So he ordered the bird to be released. But as soon as the door of the cage was thrown open, the bird flew out, perched itself on a nearby doorway and defecated. To everyone's surprise, the dropping immediately turned into gold. The king mourned his loss.

1. Which of the following is possible the most appropriate title for the story?

- a) The Skilled Hunter
- b) The King's Prime Minister
- c) The King's Defeat
- d) The Bird with the Gold Dropping
- e) The Trials and Tribulations of the Foolish Bird Sindhuka

2. Which of the following emotions made the hunter gift the bird to the king?

- a) Respect b) Joy c) Pride d) Fear e) Awe

3. Which of the following is true according to the story?

- a) Birds like Sindhuka were very common in the area near the mountain
- b) Sindhuka remained caged for the rest of its life
- c) Sindhuka was unaware of the trap laid by the hunter
- d) The King, when told to not accept the bird, did not listen to his Prime Minister
- e) All are true

4. Why was the king's Prime Minister reluctant to accept the bird?

- a) He believed that the bird would die if caged
- b) He know about the hunter's habit of lying
- c) He believed that the bird would bring bad luck to the king
- d) His sources had informed him that the hunter was crazy
- e) None of these

5. How did the hunter find Sindhuka?

a) He had read stories about the bird and had set traps at various locations in the city

b) He followed the bird's droppings

c) He was on the lookout for a prey when he chanced upon it

d) People from the city had informed him about the bird's whereabouts

e) He was attracted by the birds calls

Directions (Q. 6-8) Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

6. Rather

- a) Regular b) Quite c) Instead d) But e) Known

7. Release

- a) Free b) Vacate c) Vent d) Let expire e) Make public

8. Reverence

- a) Respect b) Detail c) Astonishment d) Hope e) Remembrance

Directions (Q. 9-10) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

9. Reluctant

- a) True b) Clever c) Averse d) Hesitant e) Keen

10. Skillfully

- a) Angrily b) Haphazardly c) Highly d) Cheaply e) Deftly

Passage-2

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Once a thief named Kalu had planned to loot the king's treasury. At midnight, he went to the palace and began to drill a hole in the side wall of the treasury. The king, who was awake in his bedroom just above the treasury, came out to investigate the whirring sound. He was dressed in a simple nightgown and the thief could not recognize him. He asked Kalu who he was and what he was doing. The latter said, "Sir, I am a thief and intend to loot this treasury. I presume that you are also a thief and have come with the same intention. No matter, let us both go inside and we shall share the loot equally. "Both entered the treasury and divided all the money and the jewels equally between them. Inside a locker they found three big diamond pieces. As the thief was puzzled as to how to divide the three pieces into two portions, the king suggested. "We have taken away everything else. Let us leave one diamond piece for the poor king and share the rest equally". Kalu agreed and when

he took his leave, the king asked for his name and address. As Kalu had taken a vow of telling only the truth, he have the correct information. The king took away his share of the loot and hid it in his room. Next morning he asked his Prime Minister to inspect the treasury as he had heard some strange sounds during the **previous** night. The Prime Minister saw to his horror that all the valuables were missing and only a single diamond was left, perhaps **inadvertently**, by the thief. He put the diamond in his own shift pocket as its loss could be **ascribed** to the thief and nobody would suspect the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister went back to the king. The king particularly enquired. "Do you mean that the thief has completely **denuded** the treasury of its valuables and not a single item has been left?" The Prime Minister confirmed it. The king asked the chief of police to bring in Kalu. When Kalu came he was unable to recognize the king as his **accomplice** of the previous night. The king asked him, "Are you the thief who has stolen everything from my treasury leaving nothing back?" Kalu confirmed it but said, "Sir, I did leave one diamond back in the locker as advised by an accomplice of mine and it should still be there." The Prime Minister interrupted saying, "Your Majesty, this thief is lying. There is nothing left in the locker." The king asked the police chief to search the pockets of the Prime Minister, from where the missing diamond was recovered. The king told his courtiers, "Here is a Prime Minister, who is a liar and a thief and here is a thief who is a truthful gentleman."

11. The king came out in the middle of the night in order to
- Help Kalu to break into the palace treasury
 - Share the loot equally between Kalu and himself
 - Find out the source of and reason for the sound he had heard
 - Catch the thief who had come to steal his valuables
 - None of these

12. Kalu could not recognize the king because
- The king was wearing clothes like those of an ordinary person
 - The king's clothes were covered by a simple night down
 - Kalu had never seen the king before
 - Kalu had not seen the king descending from his bedroom
 - None of these

13. Which of the following made the king suspect the Prime Minister? The Prime Minister's statement that
- Except for one piece of diamond all other valuables were stolen
 - All the valuables without any exception were stolen from the treasury
 - The thief was lying when he said he had left one diamond back in the locker
 - The search for the diamond did not yield any favorable result
 - None of these

14. Which of the following horrified the Prime Minister?
- The valuables missing from the king's treasury
 - A piece of diamond left in the locker

- Certain strange sounds heard by the Prime Minister
- The fact that the king suspected him of stealth
- None of these

Directions (Q. 15-17) Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

15. Accomplice
 a) Co-traveler b) Collaborator c) Controller d) Coordinator e) Commuter

16. Ascribed
 a) Attributed b) Donated c) Attached d) Withdrew e) Connected

17. Denuded
 a) Uncovered b) stripped c) Destroyed d) Discarded e) Abandoned

Directions (Q. 18-19) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

18. Inadvertently
 a) Knowingly b) Sensibly c) Indifferently d) Unwittingly e) Unscrupulously

19. Previous
 a) New b) Preceding c) Novel d) Modern e) Subsequent

Passage-3

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Banking sector reforms in India were introduced in order to **improve** efficiency in the process of financial intermediation. It was expected that banks would take advantage of the changing operational environment and improve their performance. Towards this end, the Reserve Bank of India initiated a host of measures for the creation of a competitive environment. Deregulation of interest rates on both deposit and lending sides imparted freedom to banks to appropriate price their products and services. To compete effectively with non-banking entities, banks were permitted to undertake newer activities like investment banking, securities trading and insurance business. This was facilitated through amendments in the **relevant** acts which permitted PSBs to raise equity from the market up to threshold limit and also enabling the entry of new private and foreign banks. This changing face of banking led to an erosion of margins on traditional banking business, promoting banks to search for newer activities to **augment** their free incomes. At the same time, banks also needed to devote focused attention to operational efficiency in order to contain their transaction costs. Simultaneously with the deregulation measures prudential norms were instituted to strengthen the safety and soundness of the banking system. Recent internal empirical research found that over the period 1992-2003, there has been a discernible improvement in the efficiency of Indian banks. The increasing trend in efficiency has been fairly uniform, irrespective of the ownership pattern. The rate of such improvement has, however, not been sufficiently high. The analysis also **reveals** that PSBs and private sector banks in India did not differ significantly in terms of their efficiency measures. Foreign banks, on the other hand, recorded higher efficiency as compared with their Indian counterparts.

20. Prudential norms were initiated in the banking sector with a view to

- a) Increase operational efficiency
- b) Contain the non-performing assets
- c) Strengthen the soundness of banking system
- d) Improve the customer service
- e) None of these

21. Banking sector reforms in India were introduced for the purpose of

- a) Giving more and more employment opportunities to the educated unemployed
- b) Taking care of the downtrodden masses
- c) Increasing efficiency in the banking activities
- d) Giving better return to the Central Government
- e) None of these

22. Banks can control their transaction costs by

- a) Restricting their lending activities
- b) Undertaking more and more non-banking activities
- c) Encouraging the customers to bank with other banks
- d) Devoting more attention to operational efficiency
- e) None of these

23. The recent internal empirical research conducted by the RBI found that

- a) There is cut-throat competition in banking industry
- b) The rate of return is not commensurate with the operational cost
- c) The rate of improvement has not been high
- d) Nationalized banks and private sector banks did differ in the efficiency measures

e) None of these

24. Which of the following statements recognizing improvement in efficiency is true in the context of the passage?

- a) There is no discernible difference in efficiency parameters
- b) The foreign banks recorded higher efficiency
- c) The efficiency of foreign banks is not comparable with Indian banks
- d) The rate of such improvement in efficiency was very high
- e) None of these

Directions (Q. 25-26) Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

25. Relevant

- a) Recorded b) Opposite c) Appropriate d) Stringent e) Germane

26. Augment

- a) Make b) Become c) Enlarge d) Increase e) Envelop

Directions (Q. 27-28) Choose the word that is most opposite of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

27. Improve

- a) Retard b) Disprove c) Prove d) Accelerate e) Degenerate

28. Reveal

- a) Show b) Conceal c) Secretive d) Exhibit e) None of these

Passage-4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

King Hutamasan felt he had everything in the World not only due to his riches and his noble knights, but because of his beautiful queen, Rani Matsya. The rays of the Sun were put to shame with the iridescent light that Matsya illuminated, with her beauty and brain. At the right hand of the king, she was known to sit and aid him in all his judicial probes. You could not escape her deep-set eyes, when you committed a crime as she always knew the victim and the culprit. Her generosity preceded her reputation in the kingdom and her hands were always full to give. People in the kingdom **revered** her because if she passed by, she always gave to the compassionate and poor. Far away from the kingly palace lived a man named Raman with only ends to his poverty and no means to rectify it. Raman was wrecked with poverty as he had lost all his land to the landlord. His age enabled him little towards manual labour and so begging was the only alternative to salvage his wife and children. Every morning, he went door to door for some work, food or money. The kindness of people always got him enough to take home. But Raman was a little self-centered. His World began with him first, followed by his family and the rest. So, He would eat and drink to his delight and return home with whatever he found excess. This routine followed and he never let anyone discover his interests as he always put on a long face, when he reached home. One day as he was realizing the bowl of rice he had just received from a humble home, he heard that Rani Matsya was to pass from the very place he was standing. Her generosity had reached his ears and he knew if he pulled a long face and showed how poor he was, she would hand him a bag full of gold coins – enough for the rest of his life, enough to buy food and supplies for his family. He thought he could keep some coins for himself and only reveal a few to his wife, so he can fulfil his own wishes. He ran to the chariot of the Rani and begged her soldiers to allow him to speak to the queen. Listening to the arguments outside Rani Matsya opened the curtains of her chariot and asked Raman what he wanted. Raman went on his knees and praised the queen. I have heard you are most generous and most chaste, show this beggar some charity. Rani narrowed her brows and asked Raman what he could give her in return, surprised by such a question, Raman looked at his bowl full of rice. With spite in him he just pricked up a few grains of rice and gave it to the queen. Rani Matsya counted the 5 grains and looked at his bowl full of rice and said, you shall be given what is due to you. Saying this, the chariot galloped away. Raman abused her under his breath. This he never thought would happen. How could she ask him for something in return, when she hadn't given him anything? Irrked with anger he stormed home and gave his wife the bowl of rice. Just then he saw a sack at the entrance. His wife said men had come and kept it there. He opened it to find it full of rice. He put his hand inside and caught hold of a hard mental only to discover it was a gold coin. Elated he upturned the sack to find 5 gold coins in exact for the five rice grains. If only I had given my entire bowl, thought Raman, I would have had a sack full of gold.

29. According to the passage, which of the following is definitely true about Rani Matsya?

- A. She was beautiful.
- B. She was intelligent.
- C. She was kind.

- a) Only A b) Only B c) Only C
d) A and B e) All the three

30. What does the phrase 'pulled a long face' as used in the passage mean?

- a) Scratched his face
b) Looked very sorrowful
c) Disguised himself
d) Put on makeup
e) None of these

31. What can possibly be the moral of the story?

- a) Do unto others as you would want others to do to you
b) Patience is a virtue
c) Winning is not everything, it is the journey that counts
d) Change is the only constant thing in life
e) Teamwork is more we and less me

32. Why was begging the only option for Raman to get food?

- a) As Raman belonged to a family of beggars
b) As begging was the easiest way for him to obtain food

Directions (Q. 35-36) Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

35. Galloped

- a) Hurtled b) Stumbled c) Slumbered d) Jumped e) Ran

c) As Raman's family had forced him to beg

d) As he had lost all his property and was too old to do manual work

e) None of these

33. Which of the following words can be used to describe Raman?

- A. Deceitful
B. Selfish
C. Timid

a) Only A b) Only B c) A and B

d) B and C e) All the three

34. What did Raman find after he returned home from his meeting with Rani Matsya?

- a) The Rani's soldiers
b) An empty house
c) The five grains of rice that he had given to Rani Matsya
d) A sack full of rice and five gold coins
e) None of these

Directions (Q. 37-38) Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

37. Reveal

- a) Stop b) Conceal c) Present d) Pending e) Tell

36. Revered

- a) Remembered b) Feared c) Talked about d) Embraced
e) Respected

38. Elated

- a) Afraid b) Poor c) Happy d) Depressed e) Grounded

Passage-5

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Rahul a young householder, used to study the scriptures everyday under a guru. One day the guru was explaining the following passage from the Upanishads. "No husband is loved by his wife for his own sake but it is all for the sake of the self ____ No sons are loved by their fathers for their sake but it is all for the sake of the self that the sons become dear to him." At that stage, Rahul intervened and said, "Sir, in my case, both my parents and my wife love me so dearly for my own sake that if I am delayed by a few minutes in reaching home they get highly agitated and if something happens to me they will die." Guruji said, "You shall learn the truth of it tomorrow, when you see the result of a test I am going to hold. Before going to bed tonight, you must swallow this herbal powder. As a result, you will lie as if dead tomorrow morning, but you will be able to hear all that is spoken in your presence. After a few hours, when the effect of this medicine wears off, you will become normal and get up. You will see the fun." Rahul did as instructed and in the morning his wife and parents found him 'dead'-lying motionless without any pulse or heartbeat. The guruji asked for a jar full of water and said, "I shall draw out all the bad destiny responsible for your son's death into this water. One of you will have to drink this water. The one who drinks will die immediately, while Rahul will be restored to life. Tell me who among you is prepared to die for him? Both the parents refused saying, "we are old and, helping each other mutually. If one dies, the other will not have anybody to help. So our drinking the water is out of question." Rahul's young wife also said, "I am very young and have not seen anything of this world yet. When such old people, who have seen life in its fullness, do not want to die how can you expect me to volunteer for death? A brighter idea flashed into the mind of the father who told the guruji, "Sir, you are a reunciate and have no relatives to mourn your death. Why don't you drink the water yourself? We will conduct your funeral in a grand manner."

39. The contents of the passage prove that

- a) What the Upanishad states appears to be true
b) Rahul's initial understanding about his family members was true
c) The guru did not have any miraculous power

d) The guru did not have thorough knowledge of scriptures

e) None of these

40. After experimenting as per the guru's plan, Rahul realized that

- a) His parents would do anything for his sake
- b) His wife would readily sacrifice for his welfare
- c) The guru's prediction had proved to be wrong
- d) One loves oneself more than one loves anyone else
- e) None of these

42. The guru wanted a jar of water to

- a) Drink from as he was very thirsty
- 42b) Extract the bad elements responsible for Rahul's death
- 42c) Give it to Rahul's parents to drink from
- 42d) Sprinkle it on Rahul's dead body to bring him to life
- 42e) None of these

43. Which of the following was proposed by Rahul's father to the guru?

- a) He may be given the enchanted water to drink
- b) Rahul's wife was the most appropriate person to drink the magical water

Directions: (Q. 44-46) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

44. Refused

- a) Denied b) Accepted c) Declined d) Defused
- e) Accomplished

41. What according to the passage, was the essence of the Upanishad passage?

- a) Sons are loved by their fathers for the sake of themselves
- b) Relatives are dear to us because we love them
- c) Most human beings are not selfish
- d) Every person's actions are to gratify himself or herself
- e) None of these

c) Rahul be brought back to life without the death of anybody else

d) The guru himself should participate in Rahul's grand funeral

e) None of these

45. Bright

- a) Vivid b) Dark c) Dazzling d) Shadow e) Stupid

46. Agitated

- a) Roused b) Troubled c) Excited d) Claim e) Angered

Directions (Q. 47-48) Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

47. Apprised

- a) Respected b) Valued c) Assessed d) Shown e) Informed

48. Entreated

- a) Respected b) Implored c) Desired d) Commanded e) Managed

Passage-6

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

"Uncle" said Luke to the old Sean, "You seem to be well fed, though I know no one looks after you. Nor have I seen you leave your residence at any time. Tell me how do you manage it?" "Because" Sean replied, "I have a good feed every night at the emperor's orchard. After dark, I go there myself and pick out enough fruits to last a fortnight." Luke proposed to accompany his uncle to the orchard. Though **reluctant** because of Luke's habit of euphoric exhibition of **extreme** excitement, Sean agreed to take him along. At the orchard while Sean hurriedly collected the fruits and left, Luke on the other hand at the sight of unlimited supply of fruits was excited and lifted his voice which brought emperor's men immediately to his side. They seized him and mistook him as the sole cause of damage to the orchard. Although Luke **reiterated** that he was a bird of passage, they **pounded** him **mercilessly** before setting him free.

49. How did old Sean manage to meet his food requirements?

- a) By buying food from the market
- b) His nephew Luke took care of his requirements
- c) Luke brought fruits from the emperor's orchard for Sean
- d) He picked up fruits from the emperor's orchard
- e) The emperor provided him with ample supply of fruits

b) He feared that Luke's reaction may alert the Emperor's men

c) Because Luke could harm him

d) He wanted to bring fruits for Luke himself

e) He knew Luke was a greedy person

50. Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?

- a) Sean was a poor and suffering man
- b) Luke came to know about the orchard from his uncle
- c) Sean initially hesitated to take his nephew along
- d) Luke as finally set free
- e) Both Sean and Luke collected fruits from Emperor's orchard

52. How often did Sean visit the emperor's orchard?

- a) Daily
- b) Once a month
- c) In a period of two weeks
- d) Never, his nephew Luke brought fruits for him
- e) Everyday during midnight

51. Why was Sean reluctant to take Luke along?

- a) Because he was a selfish man

53. Luke remitted behind at the orchard because he

- a) Was greedy and wanted to collect more fruits
- b) Waited for the Emperor's men to arrest him
- c) Lost his composure and started expressing his feelings loudly
- d) Had waited for his uncle to return

e) Could not move in the dark

Directions (Q. 54-56) Choose the word/phrase which is most nearly the same in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

54. Reiterated

a) Pleaded b) Regurgitated c) Protested d) Repeated e) Recapitulated

55. Extreme

a) End b) High c) Severe d) Serious e) Moderate

56. Reluctant

a) Disinclined b) Opposed c) Against d) Resistant e) None of these

Directions (Q. 57-58) choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

57. Pounded

a) Weighed b) Released c) Paid d) Attended e) Caressed

58. Mercilessly

a) Calmly b) Compassionately c) Mildly d) Forgivably e) Sympathetically

Passage-7

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

The King of Kanchi set off to conquer Kamat. He was victorious in battle. The elephants were laden with sandalwood, ivory gold and precious stones, taken from the conquered kingdom of Kamat. They would be a part of the victory parade for his subjects. On his way back home he stopped at a temple, finished his prayers to the goddess and turned to leave. Around his neck, was a garland of scarlet hibiscus and as was the custom for all, his forehead was anointed with red sandal paste. His Minister and the court jester were his only companions. At one spot, in a mango grove by the wayside, they **spied** some children play. The King said, "Let me go and see what they are playing." The children had lined up two rows of clay dolls and were playing warriors and battles. The king asked, "Who is fighting with whom?" They said, "Kamat is at battle with Kanchi." The king asked, "Who is winning and who is the loser?" The children puffed their chests up and said, "Kamat will win and Kanchi will lose." The Minister **froze** in disbelief, the King was furious and the jester burst into laughter. The King was soon joined by his troops and the children were still **immersed** in their game. The King commanded, "Cane them hard." The children's parents came running from the nearby village and said, "They are naïve, it was just a game, please grant them **pardon**." The King called his commander and ordered, "Teach these children and the village a lesson so that they never forget the king of Kanchi." He went back to his camp. That evening the commander stood before the King. He bowed low in shame and said, "Your Majesty, with the exception of hyenas and vultures, all lie silent in the village." The Minister said, "His Majesty's honour has been saved." The priest said, "The goddess has blessed our King." The jester said, "Your highness, please grant me **leave** to go now." The King asked, "But why?" The jester said, "I cannot kill, I cannot maim, I can only laugh at God's gift of life." Trembling in the face of the King's anger he bravely continued, "If I stay in your Majesty's court, I shall become like you and I shall forget how to laugh."

59. Why were the elephants carrying loads of gold and other valuables?

a) This was what the king had looted from Karnat to distribute among his soldiers as a reward
b) This was the king's offering to the deity out of gratitude for making him victorious
c) It was what the king had plundered from Karnat to display to the people of his kingdom as a sign of victory
d) So that the people of the kingdom of Karnat acknowledged him as their new ruler
e) None of these

60. Why did the king anoint his head with red sandal paste?

a) As a mark of celebration to show he had been victorious
b) It was the usual practice for all devotees at the temple
c) To show other devotees that he was king
d) To priest requested him to do so
e) To show his soldiers that he had visited the temple

61. What excuse was given for the children's behaviour?

a) They were disobedient to their parent's wishes
b) They were unaware of the true facts of the battle
c) They were upset that their army had lost
d) They were in the habit of lying
e) None of these

62. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

a) The king stopped at the temple to see what else could be plundered

b) The people of the village to which the children belonged developed great respect for the king

c) The commander was ashamed at having obeyed the king's orders to cane the children
d) The jester was unhappy that the king had defeated the army of Karnat
e) None of these

63. Why did the jester resign from his post?

a) He felt that the king was too influenced by the Minister
b) To show that he disapproved of the king's action of punishing the children
c) He did not want to accompany the king on his war campaign
d) He was no longer able to make the king laugh
e) None of these

64. Why was the king angry with the children?

a) Because the game they were playing was dangerous
b) They had lied him
c) They did not recognize him as king
d) They had unknowingly insulted him
e) They were rude to him

Directions (Q. 65-67) Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

65. Froze

a) Cold b) Numb c) Shivered d) Stood still e) Chill

66. Leave

a) Holiday b) Transfer c) Exit d) Permission e) Farewell

67. Spied

a) Noticed b) Keep watch c) Followed d) Spot e) Caught

Directions (Q. 68-69) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Passage-8

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Various measures have been deployed to combat food inflation. Subsidies on food and fertilizers, imports of food as well as regulations to prevent hoarding farm produce did succeed in stabilizing prices from time to time. But such crisis management has been able to provide only short lived relief, and prices have gone up from 2007. Bringing down food inflation will benefit the consumer, but make prices unattractive to farmers. This will **accentuate** poverty. Unremunerated prices discourage investments in agriculture, causing supply side shortages, **fueling** inflation further. So, the most effective way of prices, ploughing a larger share of the consumer spend back to the farmer. First we need to lower transaction costs. The Agricultural Produce Market Committee Acts mandate all farm produce should be brought to mandis for farmer pays to transport his produce over long distances, before knowing the price at which his produce would be sold, or whether any other market would have paid a better price. The journey from farm to consumer involves multiple levels of transportation, handling expenses, commissions of agents and a mandi cess, adding nearly 20% cost to food prices. This **absurdity** was acknowledged years ago, and a new Model APMC Act recommended by the Centre in 2003.

This Model Act must be implemented in all states. Unless farmers have the freedom to sell at farm-gate or other transparent platforms directly to buyers, transaction costs will remain high and drive consumer prices higher. Next, we need to cut wastage. Anywhere from, 5% to 40% of food is wasted along the chain, depending on the perishability of the crop and the season. First, market instruments must empower farmers to produce as per tomorrow's demand, rather than be guided by yesterday's prices. If the Forward Contracts Regulation Act is amended to permit trading in options, farmers are assured of a minimum price when sowing, based on future projections **simulated** by a market consensus. This will align production volumes to future demand conditions and minimize wastage. .

70. What has been the overall effect of the various measures taken to combat food inflation?

- a) Such measures have successfully stabilized prices of food items for a longer period
- b) Such measures have proved ineffective in the long run, and the prices have gone up.
- c) Such measures could provide only a short lived relief
- d) Only b) and c)

71. What prompted the Centre to bring about a new Model APMC Act? Select the most appropriate option.

- a) The earlier version of the APMC Act forced the farmers to bear huge transportation cost
- b) The APMC Act provided that every farmer had to sell his produce only in man di and that also through agents.
- c) APMC Act was not acceptable to farmers, and on several occasions they had expressed their resentment against the said Act.
- d) The APMC Act could not provide relief to farmers, rather it led the food prices to costlier by 20%.

72. Which of the following statements is contrary to the facts mentioned in the given passage?

- a) Unremunerated prices discourage investment in agriculture resulting into supply side shortage
- b) To contain food inflation the consumer prices should be lowered.
- c) Market instruments must empower farmers to produce as per yesterday's demand.
- d) The new Model of APMC Act was recommended by the center to lower the transaction cost.

68. Immersed in

a) Safe from b) Distracted from c) Boring d) Drowning in e) Entertained by

69. Pardon

a) Punishment b) Excuse c) Convict d) Intolerance e) Imprison

73. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Absurdity

- a) Logic b) Wisdom c) Folly d) Seriousness

74. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Virtual

- a) Real b) Practical c) Authentic d) Actual

75. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Simulated

- a) Unexpected b) Classified c) Delivered d) Imitated

76. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Accentuate

- a) Alleviate b) Increase c) Accentuate d) Highlight

77. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage

Fueling

- a) Inciting b) Lessening c) Inflaming d) Sustaining

Passage-9

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

India's external debt profile appears similar to that of other major market economies. But its short term external debt stock is now higher than countries such as Brazil and Russia (in terms of percentage of GDP), according to Taimur Baig and Kaushik Datta, economists at Deutsche Bank. India's share of short term debt relative to the stock of total external debt is also higher than other emerging market economies, with the exception of Turkey, they say. Though short term debt was **contained** in FY 14, it was largely due to a slowdown in imports and may again rise once there is a rebound in growth and Imports pick up. Some economists point out that since GDP is expressed in dollar terms, a weak rupee translates into a lower GDP number and hence, a lower ratio could be misleading. However, the composition of long term debt which is **reckoned** to be durable and 'safe' is also worrisome. While the share of almost risk free sovereign, multilateral and bilateral credit has reduced significantly over the years, it is private corporate sector debt and 'retail' component in terms of NRI deposits that has swelled over the years. **Proceeds** from the FCNR (B) swap and overseas borrowing schemes were, in fact, the main contributors to the \$31.2 bn increase in external debt in FY 14, which were facilitated by the Reserve Bank to stabilize the Indian currency. "NRI deposits do not pose material risks (as they are generally rolled over). But the increase in the share of external commercial borrowings exposes the domestic corporate sector significantly to external shocks, including adverse exchange rate movements," says Samiran Chakrabarty, Chief India Economist, Standard Chartered Bank. Every year about \$20 bn is scheduled for repayment. The amount may not seem alarming, but the risk arises if there is a global liquidity **squeeze**. The recent trouble in Iraq has added another dimension to external sector woes, which is that the reduction in trade deficit in FY 14 may reverse again. "Already struggling with a record low growth, high inflation, a weak currency, low manufacturing growth and possibility of sub-normal monsoon, the threat of oil supply shock and the resultant increase in prices add to the risks faced by the country, which could hamper India's **envisaged** improvement in economic growth in FY 15," say Madan Sabnavis and Kavita Chacko of Care Ratings. If crude price risks persist, the current account deficit, which was contained in 2013-14, could deteriorate further and also add to pressure on the rupee. Care Ratings has projected a CAD for the year at 2.5% of GDP, assuming stable crude oil prices and a recovery in industrial production. Higher persistent crude prices would upset this calculation.

78. Which of the following statements is contrary to the facts mentioned in the given passage?

- a) In FY 14, short term debt was contained due to slowdown in imports.
- b) Short term debt is directly proportional to the quantum of imports.
- c) A weak rupee translates into a lower GDP number
- d) Private corporate sector debt has decreased over the years

79. What is/are the reasons of the author being apprehensive about India's improvement in economic growth in FY 15?

- a) The recent Iraq crisis may lead to reduction in trade deficit in the current financial year
- b) The possibility of sub-normal monsoon
- c) High inflation and low manufacturing growth
- d) All of the above

80. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Contained

- a) Neglected b) Accommodated c) Controlled d) Excluded

81. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Reckoned

- a) Nullified b) Abandoned c) Started d) Considered

82. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Envisaged

- a) Anticipated b) Amazed c) Doubted d) Discarded

83. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Proceeds

- a) Profit b) Outgo c) Income d) Interests

84. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Squeeze

- a) Congestion b) Crunch c) Restraint d) Release

Passage-10

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The first budget of the new administration needed to focus on two key macro problems - a path to fiscal consolidation and a clear signal for structural reforms - to boost the long run growth trajectory of the economy. The budget delivers on both counts. On the fiscal deficit, the new government has continued from where the previous administration left in laying out a path and a commitment to reducing the deficit to 3% of GDP by FY 17. On the structural reform path, there was a clear focus on boosting labour intensive manufacturing and growth. The excise duty cuts for food processing and footwear industries, creation of SEZs, single window clearance, tax deductions for investments, reforms to the Apprenticeship Act and Rs.10,000 Crore as venture capital for SMEs were all small steps in that direction. While the fiscal path is admirable, it also may be too aggressive. It may be difficult to get a 20% increase in tax revenues in a year when growth is likely to remain below 6%. The assumption of service tax revenues growing by 40% may be a tad optimistic. Further, the 3G telecom privatization proceeds of Rs.45,000 Crore also look ambitious. To achieve the government's medium term targets will not be easy. First, we would have preferred a more realistic and gradual approach to consolidation. Taking an

extra year to reach the 3% deficit target (i.e. by FY 18 instead of FY 17) might be more realistic, and would not compromise macro stability. Second, there is an urgent need for a return to fiscal rules and the FRBM Act, with due sanctions, as the Economic Survey argues. Without it, and despite the medium term path laid out in the budget, there may be an incentive to pause on fiscal consolidation, as happened in FY 09 and was witnessed through FY 12. More than 80 countries follow some sort of a fiscal rule and have found them very useful in imposing fiscal discipline. Third, if consolidation is based on increasing the tax base, then further **erosions** could be avoided. In this regard, the increase in income tax exemption limits further reduces an already small tax base. Only 3% of Indians (35 mn) pay income tax compared with more than 20% of Chinese and over 45% of Americans. The strategy that China followed was to not raise income tax thresholds with rising incomes to increase the base further. If the government **consistently** raises the threshold limits, it would be difficult to expand the tax base. Fourth, tax administration could be improved by having an independent revenue service, with its own budget and autonomy in hiring staff. As the government implements its revenue strategy, autonomy and reforms in administration could be potentially very helpful. Fifth, a road map for reducing subsidies, particularly the large fertilizer subsidy, can give greater **credence** to the consolidation path. The budget marks a very good beginning in terms of signaling a commitment to fiscal discipline and structural reforms. While the strategy seems to improve GDP growth and, thereby, reduce fiscal deficit through revenue **buoyancy**, such a strategy is **fraught** with risks. We think that to meet the consolidation path requires a clear set of rules, measures to broad base the tax system and a road map to reduce subsidies. This budget lays out the overall vision.

85. Which of the following statements is not based on the facts mentioned in the given passage?

- a) It will be difficult to get a 20% increase in income tax revenue if the growth remains below 6%.
- b) It will be difficult to achieve government's medium term targets.
- c) The new government has committed to reducing the fiscal deficit to 3% of GDP by FY 17.
- d) Among India, China and America, the highest number of tax payers live in America.

86. What is being done by the government for structural reform?

- a) Special attention was paid on the growth of labour intensive manufacturing.
- b) Excise duty cut for food processing and footwear industries was allowed
- c) SEZs are to be created
- d) All of the above

87. What is/are the prerequisite(s) to meet the consolidation path? Give your answer in the context of the given passage.

- a) More and more people should be brought under the net of income tax.
- b) A blue print should be prepared to reduce subsidies.
- c) An independent, autonomous body with an authority to inspect the functioning of income tax department should be brought into existence.
- d) Only a) and b)

88. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Erosion

- a) Destruction b) Deterioration c) Strengthening d) Consumption

89. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Buoyancy

- a) Elasticity b) Snap c) Rigidity d) Resilience

90. Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Fraught

- a) Empty b) Devoid c) Lack d) Abound

91. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Consistently

- a) Steadily b) Customarily c) Never d) Congruously

92. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Credence

- a) Distrust b) Assurance c) Belief d) Credit

Passage-11

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The RBI orders a moratorium when a bank's financial stability is **threatened**. Depositors face some restrictions on withdrawing money from their accounts during this period. Currently the restriction is confined to premature withdrawal of FDs in case of Karpal Bank. Customers can still withdraw money from their savings and current accounts. However, the Banking Regulation Act has provisions for relief to customers facing a financial emergency. "Banks' administrative board can approach the RBI with a plea for relaxing the withdrawal limits in case of account holders such as those who have saved or deposited money for their medical treatment or educational purpose and pensioners," says VN Kulkarni, chief credit counsellor with the Bank of India backed Abhay Credit Counselling Centre. Since one cannot do much after the bank gets into trouble or the RBI comes into the **picture**, it would be wise to take some precautions. "Depositors need to be Selective not only in choosing the bank, but also in depositing the amount using different combinations," says Kulkarni. For instance, you can maintain the first deposit in your name, held jointly with your spouse or children. Similarly, the Second joint FD could be created with your wife as the first holder. This will help you benefit from the deposit insurance cover extended to retail depositors. Currently, deposits are insured up to Rs.1 Lakh per bank, and not per branch of the same bank. You can also look at maintaining FDs in more than one bank to spread out the risk. However, this may not be feasible for some

individuals. For instance, a retiree who wishes to invest her huge retirement corpus in FDs. "It is not feasible to split a huge amount of, say, Rs.50 Lakh into 50 deposits with different banks. Senior citizens have to **strike** a balance between convenience, risks and higher returns that some of the smaller banks offer," says Suresh Sadagopan, certified financial planner and founder, Ladder. Financial Advisories. He recommends **diversification** by investing in fixed income options like company FDs, nonconvertible debentures as also more secure alternatives such as tax free bonds and senior citizens savings scheme, which offers an interest rate of 9.2%. You must also evaluate the bank's credentials carefully before **parking** your money in it. "While selecting the bank, you need to ascertain its gross NPAs. It should be not higher than 5%. Similarly, ensure that your bank has adequate capital as prescribed by the regulators," says Kulkarni. "That is, minimum 9% of risk-weighted assets, and at least 12%, in case of cooperative banks." You will find this information in the balance sheets of banks.

93. Which of the following is not definitely true with respect to Kapol Bank?

- a) It is a private sector bank
- b) At present, premature withdrawal of FD cannot be allowed.
- c) Customers of this bank have been allowed withdrawal of money from their CASA.
- d) There are no restrictions on withdrawal except of premature fixed deposits.

94. Find the statement which is not based on the facts mentioned in the passage.

- a) Under certain circumstances, account holders facing financial emergency can be allowed withdrawal of money beyond withdrawal limit as per the provisions laid down in the Banking Regulation Act.
- b) When the bank gets into trouble it is better for a depositor to be selective in both choosing the bank and depositing the amount using different combinations.
- c) When the financial stability of a bank is at stake the central bank orders a moratorium
- d) The central bank has ordered a moratorium on Kapol Bank.

95. Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Parking

- a) Removing b) Depositing c) Stopping d) Walking

96. Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Picture

- a) Scene b) Mainstream c) Portrait d) Role

97. Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Diversification

- a) Variegation b) Homogenous c) Allocation d) Division

98. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Threatened

- a) Warned b) Jeopardized c) Ensured d) Exposed

99. Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.

Strike

- a) Maintain b) Hit c) Knock d) Smack

Answers:

1. Option D	21. Option C	41. Option D	61. Option B	81. Option D
2. Option D	22. Option D	42. Option B	62. Option C	82. Option A
3. Option C	23. Option C	43. Option E	63. Option E	83. Option B
4. Option E	24. Option B	44. Option B	64. Option D	84. Option D
5. Option C	25. Option A	45. Option E	65. Option B	85. Option D
6. Option B	26. Option D	46. Option D	66. Option D	86. Option D
7. Option A	27. Option A	47. Option E	67. Option A	87. Option D
8. Option A	28. Option B	48. Option B	68. Option B	88. Option B
9. Option E	29. Option E	49. Option C	69. Option A	89. Option D
10. Option E	30. Option B	50. Option A	70. Option D	90. Option D
11. Option C	31. Option A	51. Option B	71. Option D	91. Option C
12. Option B	32. Option D	52. Option E	72. Option C	92. Option A
13. Option B	33. Option C	53. Option C	73. Option C	93. Option A
14. Option A	34. Option D	54. Option D	74. Option B	94. Option B
15. Option B	35. Option A	55. Option B	75. Option D	95. Option B
16. Option A	36. Option E	56. Option A	76. Option C	96. Option A
17. Option B	37. Option B	57. Option E	77. Option B	97. Option A
18. Option A	38. Option B	58. Option E	78. Option D	98. Option C
19. Option E	39. Option A	59. Option C	79. Option D	99. Option D
20. Option C	40. Option D	60. Option B	80. Option C	