

“THE CRACKER”

BANK MAINS

EXAMS

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(English Medium)

2000+
QUESTIONS



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300 **Most Important** Banking & Static Awareness Questions

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STUDY TIPS

Questions based on inference can be of two types, either the inference is given and the aspirant must identify the relevant paragraph or a paragraph is given followed by few probable inferences. Understanding the essence of the paragraph helps to deduce the inference effectively. While reading the paragraph one must observe that it provides the complete information to arrive at the appropriate inference.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-14): In each of the given questions an inference is given in bold which is then followed by three paragraphs. You must find the paragraph(s) from where it is inferred. Choose the option with the best possible outcome as your choice.

1. Electric vehicles can reduce urban pollution significantly.

[I] Addressing vehicular emissions is within our grasp but requires a multi-pronged approach. It needs to combine the already-proposed tighter emission norms (in form of BS VI), with a push for shared mobility and public transport and adoption of alternate mobility technologies. While shared mobility can moderate the demand for individual vehicle ownership and usage, technology solutions today can allow for a sharp reduction in emissions per vehicle. Government policy will impact adoption that will affect both the extent and the future growth of urban pollution.

[II] The policy roadmap should encompass three key elements based on global learnings. First, incentives for adoption of alternate mobility technologies. Second, restrictions on elements that contribute negatively to strategic objectives (such as congestion charges on polluting technologies), and last provision of enabling infrastructure.

[III] There is a need to impose restrictions through supply-side regulations on OEMs to increase production of zero emission vehicles to curb urban pollution. Most Western countries adopt enforceable norms that ensure supply of electric vehicles. China has mandated OEMs to produce 10 per cent electric vehicles of their total production. There will, of course, be the need to think about improving the provision of non-polluting public transport. These include electric buses, metros, and shared EV fleets to reduce traffic and usage.

- (a) only (II)
- (b) only (III)
- (c) both (I) and (III)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

2. NHPS's model tender document leaves several questions unanswered.

[I] Immediately after the announcement of National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), questions were raised over the capacity of the country's healthcare system to handle a project of such proportions. There were also apprehensions that private hospitals would milk the NHPS by prescribing unnecessary investigations. The Model Tender Document for The Selection of Implementing Agencies For the NHPS, released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, tries to address some of these concerns.

[II] The model tender document for The Selection of Implementing Agencies For the NHPS, released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare states that several procedures, including emergency consultation for acute colic, nebulisation for an asthma attack, hypoglycaemia in a diabetic and treatment of "dengue without complication", will be covered by the scheme only if the treatment is availed in a government hospital. Such ailments can indeed be taken care of at a primary health centre (PHC)

[III] The model tender document states that nearly 47 per cent of the packages under the NHPS, including those related to heart ailments and cancer, require pre-authorisation. In other words, hospitals empanelled under the scheme cannot perform these procedures until they have an authorisation letter from the NHPS's Implementation Support Agency. Such concerns were raised when the scheme was announced. With about two months to go for the NHPC's launch, it is disquieting that the government has not yet managed to address them convincingly.

- (a) only (II)
- (b) only (III)
- (c) both (I) and (III)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

3. Latest alterations in textbooks short-circuit established processes, undermine NCERT autonomy

[I] In a major break with practices until 2016, in the current process of alterations in NCERT books, there was no consultation between the NCERT's chief advisors and the TDCs that prepared the books during 2005-9. There was no alert to writer-contributors who had not waived their rights over their contributions. Nor is there any indication that a prevailing system of revision, referring to TDCs, has itself been officially revised. The names that figure on the books as "textbook development committees" remain the same, though most of them have not been involved in the insertion/revision process.

[II] The fact that much of the textbook material has been left alone in the latest NCERT changes indicates that the pedagogic purpose and outcome of the initiative are still able to argue for themselves; and that the initiative is still valued in the NCERT establishment. This, in turn, raises questions about why the current changes have been made as they have. The long arm of political directive is suggested — in an autonomous body that has shown its ability to take an imaginative course while generating a discursive relationship with all those involved in education, without rendering itself an arm of the state.

[III] In history, this was to be achieved with due attention to the formative processes in Indian and world history from a plurality of perspectives; in economics, sociology and political studies, commerce and geography, it involved a wide invocation of the experiences of India's various communities while preserving the interactive domain of the Social Sciences and the value of the disciplines individually. A series of NCERT Focus Group Reports of the mid-2000s articulated aspects of this agenda.

- (a) both (I) and (II)
- (b) only (III)
- (c) only (II)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

4. Since policy-making and implementation increasingly need specialists, lateral entry into senior levels of bureaucracy is a good idea.

[I] The UPSC system does draw people from diverse educational backgrounds — doctors, engineers, graduates in the social sciences, humanities and management studies — into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). But the IAS's scheme of posting and transfer values general competency more than specialised skills. This means that by the time a bureaucrat attains seniority, she has served in so many departments that her original set of skills and expertise has attenuated considerably.

[II] The Centre's decision to make possible "lateral entry" of "talented and motivated Indian nationals" into the senior levels of the bureaucracy is a much-needed reform. In an advertisement issued on Sunday, the Department of Personnel and Training invited applications from outstanding individuals, including those from the private sector, for appointment to joint secretary-level posts. Although it is an initial offering of 10 posts in areas such as financial services, agriculture, environment, renewable energy, transport and revenue, the move could be a significant step towards fulfilling the longstanding need for domain specialists in positions crucial to policy-making and implementation of government schemes.

[III] In the past, governments have occasionally inducted talent from outside the bureaucracy for administrative purposes. The UPA government appointed Nandan Nilekani to head the UIDAI. But in general, governments have tried to meet the need for experts by appointing consultants. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission's (ARC) recommendation of an "institutionalised and transparent process for lateral entry at both the Central and state levels" had so far gone unheeded.

- (a) both (I) and (II)
- (b) only (III)
- (c) only (II)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

5. SBI to stop handling payments for oil imports from Iran.

[I] Although the government had cut imports from Tehran in 2017/18 due to a dispute over a giant gas field, Iran remained its third-biggest oil supplier. Iran supplied about 458,000 barrels per day (bpd), or about a tenth of the country's more than 4.5 million bpd of imports, in the fiscal year to March 2018.

[II] The new Indian government has promised to put the economy back on an accelerated growth path with reforms in the energy, financial, and employment sectors. Energy is the backbone of the Indian economy, so the right energy policies will spur growth in all other sectors. With India soon expected to be the world's third largest energy consumer, there is an urgent need to get these right: current demand for imported coal, oil, and natural gas is significantly outpacing domestic production, and the country is being forced to spend valuable foreign capital to procure additional energy resources.

[III] Imports was reported at 4,308.30 Barrel/Day th in Dec 2016. This records an increase from the previous number of 3,935.50 Barrel/Day th for Dec 2015. India's Crude Oil: Imports data is updated yearly, averaging 2,078.15 Barrel/Day th from Dec 1995 to 2016, with 22 observations. The data reached an all-time high of 4,308.30 Barrel/Day th in 2016 and a record low of 602.50 Barrel/Day th in 1995.

- (a) both (I) and (II)
- (b) only (III)
- (c) only (II)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

6. South Korea's President doesn't share U.S. goals on North Korea.

[I] South Korean leader Moon claims to be the mediator between the White House and Pyongyang, but it isn't clear he's representing the U.S. position. Instead he is pressing the U.S. to give benefits to North Korea in return for mere steps toward denuclearization. He has adopted the North's position that the negotiations should agree to "phased and synchronous measures," meaning the North gets benefits in exchange for incremental steps such as allowing inspectors to visit nuclear sites.

[II] The matter of denuclearization of North Korea became worse since Moon was personally invested in a Trump-Kim summit. He and his administration worked tirelessly to make it happen in hopes that Washington and Pyongyang could agree on the future of North Korea's nuclear program. Of course, part of his motivation to do this was to protect South Koreans from Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal. However, Trump calls off the meeting.

[III] North Korea's entire foreign policy and national identity has evolved around the threat of war with America. As a result, they've always been trying to improve their military capabilities in order to deter the US from invading.

- (a) only (I)
- (b) only (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) Both (I) and (II)
- (e) All (I), (II) and (III)

7. Banks needs to step up the digital game.

[I] With digital platforms are enjoying increasing customer trust and reliance, banks need to respond by improving their digital marketing capabilities — nurturing a digital brand image that places them top of mind for customers. Customer adoption of digital banking has gone beyond online transactions to an increased number of digital purchases of banking products.

[II] Traditional banks must evaluate their place within the payments ecosystem and be open to partnering with FinTechs and third-party developers to drive value collaboratively. The Internet of Things (IoT) is expected to transform the payments market landscape as more and more devices are connected. In mature markets, a combination of near field communication (NFC), contactless technology, internet banking and mobile payments are fueling growth.

[III] In Asia, customers rely quite heavily on the internet to evaluate banking products such as credit cards and auto loans, and to compare products, benefits and prices before purchase. For banks, a focused digital marketing effort will involve building up their online brand and presence and investing in customer acquisition campaigns and engagement through social media, internet advertising and other media.

- (a) only (I)
- (b) only (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) Both (I) and (III)
- (e) All (I), (II) and (III)

8. Rapid changes in climate is becoming a threat to agriculture.

[I] Agricultural pollution refers to biotic and abiotic byproducts of farming practices that result in contamination or degradation of the environment and surrounding ecosystems, and/or cause injury to humans and their economic interests. The pollution may come from a variety of sources, ranging from point source water pollution (from a single discharge point) to more diffuse, landscape-level causes, also known as non-point source pollution.

[II] Climate change has perhaps posed the most extreme challenges that agriculture in India and across the world has to deal with today and in the future. There is now scientific consensus that the world is getting warmer due to climate change and such increasing weather variability and worsening extremes will impact the agriculture sector more and more adversely.

[III] Climate change is already affecting agriculture, with effects unevenly distributed across the world. Future climate change will likely negatively affect crop production in low latitude countries, while effects in northern latitudes may be positive or negative. Climate change will probably increase the risk of food insecurity for some vulnerable groups, such as the poor. Animal agriculture is also responsible for greenhouse gas production of CO₂ and a percentage of the world's methane, and future land infertility, and the displacement of local species.

- (a) Both (II) and (III)
- (b) only (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) only (I)
- (e) All (I), (II) and (III)

9. Nanotechnology has benefitted by simplifying the complex procedures of many fields.

[I] Many benefits of nanotechnology depend on the fact that it is possible to tailor the structures of materials at extremely small scales to achieve specific properties, thus greatly extending the materials science toolkit. Using nanotechnology, materials can effectively be made stronger, lighter, more durable, more reactive, more sieve-like, or better electrical conductors, among many other traits. Moreover, nanoscale additives to or surface treatments of fabrics can provide lightweight ballistic energy deflection in personal body armor, or can help them resist wrinkling, staining, and bacterial growth.

[II] Authors David Yeo, Ph.D., and Prof. Chenjie Xu, Ph.D., of the School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) use NanoFlare to enable biopsy-free disease diagnosis and progression monitoring in response to therapy. This vision of simplifying disease diagnosis using topically-applied nanotechnology could change the way skin diseases such as abnormal scars are diagnosed and managed.

[III] Nanotechnology shows promise here and researchers have already begun to develop nano-based versions of existing pesticides and fertilizers. These nanoagrochemicals have several advantages over conventional formulas – for example, they might be delivered directly to a pest and/or may be more efficient.

- (a) Both (II) and (III)
- (b) only (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) only (I)
- (e) All (I), (II) and (III)

10. Policy forces schools to sweep learning deficits at the foundational level under the carpet.

[I] Council monitors the school's financial performance against the budget in conjunction with the principal. The convenor of the finance committee, as elected from council members, is preferably a non-Department parent member or a community member. The business manager/bursar should not hold this position. The convenor may be appointed as treasurer by council.

[II] The findings of the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2018, which tested learning outcomes in schools, reflect the damage the Right to Education's 'no detention till Class VIII' policy has caused. The Union government moved last year to scrap the policy—after 24 states insisted on this—and it is likely to go soon. But given it has been in effect for over eight years, it would likely have impaired learning for millions of Indian students.

[III] The no-detention policy was implemented to emulate education policy in many developed jurisdictions—the idea was to lessen the stress of exams on students in the junior classes. It also had an ancillary benefit for the government; it kept primary level enrolment numbers high.

- (a) Both (II) and (III)
- (b) only (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) only (I)
- (e) All (I), (II) and (III)

11. A change in present political reforms is required to support farmers.

[I] Farmers are unhappy across India. Politicians are scrambling to waive loans, raise procurement prices and promise more handouts. These will change little. Radical, multi-faceted reform is needed, and that calls for politics, not magical promises to double farmer incomes by 2022.

[II] Today, the government arbitrarily curtails royalty, pushing out companies that do research and development. But improved productivity will not enrich farmers by itself. Farmers need marketing freedom and the ability to capture as high a share as is possible of the value that their produce acquires along the way to final consumption.

[III] Agriculture easily gets 2% of GDP as subsidy. The result is still misery and farm unrest. What if farmers can be persuaded to give up traditional subsidy on inputs? A part of the subsidy savings can still go as income support, and the rest ploughed into productivity-enhancing investment, of which there has been a decline under the present government. This calls for improved political reforms, and political will.

- (a) only (II)
- (b) both (I) and (II)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

12. The government needs to handle public sector banks with care.

[I] Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Y.V. Reddy, in a speech last week, said that confidence in the working of public sector banks is at a historic low. The reason for this is not very difficult to discern. PSU banks are grappling with a high level of bad loans, and a number of them have been put under RBI's prompt corrective action and are not in a position to lend. In the March quarter, PSU banks booked losses in excess of Rs 62,000 crore and the total gross non-performing assets (NPAs) stood at about Rs 9 trillion.

[II] Although the government is in the process of recapitalising state-run banks, it is likely that the current Rs 2.11 trillion PSU bank recapitalization plan will not be sufficient to put the PSU banks back on track. Since PSU banks own about 70% of banking assets, their inability to lend will have a direct impact on economic growth. Therefore, it is important that the situation is handled with care.

[III] Apart from capital needs and faster resolution of stress assets, PSU banks need governance reforms—something that has been largely missing so far from the picture. It is correct that the present government has refrained from micromanaging PSU banks, but this in itself will not solve the problem. The government, perhaps, needs to put in place a new framework for governance where, for instance, appointments at higher levels are made in time, and the board is professional and accountable.

- (a) only (II)
- (b) both (II) and (III)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

13. India needs a new education system.

[I] In this upcoming age of artificial intelligence, we need teachers equipped with such technological expertise, more importantly equipped with the mental make-up to learn the ever-changing intricacies of education. The need of the hour is to make the education sector alluring for today's youth entering the market as a precious human resource. "The future of the country is in what lies in my classroom today."

[II] India has made progress in terms of increasing the primary education attendance rate and expanding literacy to approximately three-quarters of the population in the 7–10 age group, by 2011. India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its economic development. Much of the progress, especially in higher education and scientific research, has been credited to various public institutions.

[III] Educationalists are of the view that we are currently in the third phase of the education system. Education sector comprises of three vertices i.e. teacher, syllabus (subject) and student. The first phase of education had its focus on the 'guru' (teacher). The teacher had autonomy to decide the time, place and domain of education. Neither the subject nor the student had any predominance. It was the teacher who enjoyed prestige and power. Ancient Gurukuls are the examples of this system of education.

- (a) only (I)
- (b) both (II) and (III)
- (c) only (III)
- (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

14. Skill development of the youth should pay heed to the market

[I] Organizations must focus on understanding aspirations, industry requirements and standardization across the skill-development value chain. Well-designed interventions will be effective only if the candidates are willing, receptive and capable of absorbing the knowledge or skill being imparted by the intervention. Counselling in skilling programmes is hence

essential to align the aspirations of programme beneficiaries with the expected outcomes of training. Further, candidates may already possess specific complementary skill sets that could provide them with a competitive advantage. A candidate-selection framework would greatly enhance the efficacy of such interventions.

- [II] While designing programmes, it is critical to map skills being imparted to the specific needs of potential employers so that the skilling-to-employment loop is closed seamlessly. NSDC plans to move to a model where training partners will receive funds as per the outcomes achieved. The movement towards outcome-based funding is a welcome step towards strengthening future programme design.
- [III] India's demography provides a great opportunity for the country with regard to economic growth and development milestones. Concentrated and evidence-backed efforts which can cohesively develop and strengthen youth aspirations, the skill development ecosystem and markets where youth can be employed are necessary for India to realize that opportunity.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) Only (II)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these

Direction (15-16): In this question a small paragraph is given followed by three possible inferences which may or may not be correct. The question is then followed by five options. You have to choose the option(s) which can be inferred from the given paragraph.

15. The proposal of digitising at least part of the public examination is certainly a step in the right direction. It is more beneficial than the current system of public examination and if successful, it has tremendous potential for growth in the future. If the idea is implemented correctly, the digitised public examination system may become the flagship project that would vindicate the legacy of the current administration and create new frontiers of educational innovations for administrations to come.
- [I] A move towards the digitized public examinations should be contemplated.
 [II] digitized public examinations will be easy to administer.
 [III] digitization exams could really stop the question paper leak crisis.
- (a) only (II)
 (b) both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (I)
 (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these

16. The best-ranked universities of the world have, on an average, a student population of 18,000 per university. In comparison, the best-ranked Indian universities are operating at a much smaller scale, averaging at around 11,000 students per institution. Besides, the best universities of the world have a good mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students, with Masters and Research Degree students constituting a sizeable section of their student population, thereby ensuring a critical mass of students which, in turn, promote better graduation outcome, research, and reputation.

- [I] participation of higher educational institutions of India in global rankings has risen over time.
 [II] Population of students of Indian universities are declining in comparison to the world's best universities.
 [III] Enabling universities in India to attain world-class status.
- (a) only (II)
 (b) both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (I)
 (d) all (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these

Direction (17-30): In these questions a small paragraph is given followed by four possible inferences which may or may not be correct. You have to choose the option which gives the best possible inference of the given paragraph. If none of the given option successfully infer the given paragraph, choose option (e) i.e., "none of these" as your answer choice.

17. There is a way to dramatically cut down on the number of people impacted by disasters, and that is by using data. If we are to save lives and prevent damage to economies, it is critical to identify the most vulnerable populations. Data on these communities can be used to pursue 'risk-informed development'. For instance, road infrastructure can be built by calculating the intensity of floods and determining the types of materials needed to construct durable roads.
- (a) Data can help reduce the number of people impacted by natural disasters
 (b) Data and statistics are important in understanding the impacts and costs of disasters.
 (c) Data collection, analysis, and management can help both short and long-term development goals
 (d) Data identifies the gap between the availability and allocation of resources.
 (e) none of these

- 18.** While one can debate the economic costs and benefits of GST, the analogy with elections is logically flawed. Indeed, the concept of simultaneous elections fundamentally runs against the grain of our Westminster-style federal political union. "One nation, one election" would make sense if India were a unitary state. But we are a union of states, which is philosophically and politically an essentially different conception of the Indian nation-state.
- (a) simultaneous elections are a "ploy" to keep people away from forming a government.
 (b) GST swept away a raft of state-specific excise taxes and replaced them with a uniform tax structure.
 (c) simultaneous elections would require a slew of constitutional amendments.
 (d) simultaneous elections would compromise the strength of India's federal structure.
 (e) none of these
- 19.** Capitalism rests on the bedrock of legitimacy. A lot depends on whether voters see businessmen as robber barons or men of enterprise. In a fascinating paper, which was first published in 2013 but has come into prominence more recently, economist Nimish Adhia has shown that the 1991 economic reforms were preceded by a shift in popular narratives about capitalism in Hindi films.
- (a) Heavy regulation promotes corruption.
 (b) Movies that celebrated wealth did well at the box office.
 (c) Economic reforms need to break the grip of stigmatized capitalism.
 (d) Hindi films show us public perception of how capitalism works in country matters.
 (e) none of these
- 20.** The trouble with Internet of Things (IoT) approach is that it runs contrary to current Indian telecom regulations. Telecom access services providers are currently obliged to verify each customer before issuing them a SIM. However, if cars must already have cellular connectivity to their Network Operating Centers (NOC) when they roll off the assembly line, it is impossible for telecom service providers to complete a customer verification of the future owner of the car before activating the SIM.
- (a) Approach of Internet of Things will be achieved through artificial intelligence (AI).
 (b) The burden of telecom regulatory on the internet of things should be eased.
 (c) SIMs are used for Machine-to-machine communications without customer verification.
 (d) The approach of connected world is still ahead of us.
 (e) none of these
- 21.** India's law governing motor vehicles and transport is archaic, lacking the provisions necessary to manage fast motorisation. The lacunae in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, require to be addressed to improve road safety, ensure orderly use of vehicles and expand public transport.
- (a) Road accidents have increased in the past few years due to the hiatus in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
 (b) Expansion of vehicles have emerged as a real hindrance in the path of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
 (c) New innovative reforms are required in the laws governing motor vehicles as the already existing reforms fail to address the problem related to the safety of vehicles.
 (d) The obsolete laws governing motor vehicles need improvisation to ensure smooth management of expanding transport and in alleviating the road safety.
 (e) None of these
- 22.** The menace of migratory politics highlighted in the politics of citizens' registers began in the colonial era when the British attempted to import labour for the plantations. Major displacements like Partition and the Bangladesh war added to a huge "illegal" population.
- (a) The politics of citizens' registers undermines the problem of migratory politics, which is reflected in many instances of history.
 (b) The politics of citizens' registers underlines the problem of migratory politics, refracted through the layered memories of many historical events.
 (c) The politics of citizens' registers heightened the problem of migratory politics, which is seen in various events depicted in the history.
 (d) The politics of citizens' registers sidelined the problem of migratory politics, which is seen in various forms of historical events.
 (e) None of these
- 23.** For years now, the multilateral system for the settlement of trade dispute has been under intense scrutiny and constant criticism. The U.S. has systematically blocked the appointment of new Appellate Body members ("judges") and de facto impeded the work of the WTO appeal mechanism. With only four working members out of seven normally serving office in July 2018, the institution is under great stress.

- (a) The multilateral system responsible for trade dispute has been under constant criticism for quiet sometime now due to the stagnancy in the appointment of new Appellate body members, ultimately delayed the work of the WTO appeal mechanism.
- (b) The direct system responsible for trade dispute has been appreciated for years now as US blocked the appointment of new Appellate body members and it eventually staggered the work of WTO appeal mechanism.
- (c) The lineal system for trade dispute has been has been under constant criticism for years which led US to block the appointment of Appellate body members, ultimately impacting the work of WTO appeal mechanism.
- (d) The institution that deals with the settlement of trade disputes is facing great stress as the multilateral system has not been under constant criticism.
- (e) None of these
- 24.** Indians are indignant that US President Donald Trump seeks to curtail the number of H-1B visas, and the scope to work of H-1B visa-holders' spouses. Indians, on the whole, look askance at the Trump administration's anti-immigrant policies people.
- (a) Curtailing the number of H-1B visas and the scope to work of H-1B visa-holders' in US has caused a disapproval among the Indians and they disapprove the Trump's decision.
- (b) India should make it easy for anyone born in India or has been resident in India for a reasonable period of time to acquire Indian citizenship.
- (c) In the globalizing world, Indians support unrestricted movement of natural people across borders.
- (d) Elevating the number of H-1B visas and the scope to work of H-1B visa-holders' in US has caused a disapproval among the Indians and they are angry with the Trump's decision.
- (e) None of these
- 25.** The slew of changes that have periodically been brought about show that the tax system has stabilised neither in terms of the rate structure nor in categorisation of goods and services. There are too many rates now and some rates are still way too high. Rates must be lowered, converged to three to bring down classification disputes, and boost collections. The final GST structure should become stable to achieve a sustained increase in collections.
- (a) Multiple reforms have not done anything in stabilizing the tax structure both in term of rate or in categorization of goods and services. There is a need for a stabilized GST structure that promises a sustained increase in tax collections.
- (b) Considering the vast number of changes in the GST structure, a need is felt to stabilize the rate structure and categorise the goods and services, further discouraging the tax collections.
- (c) The changes brought in by the multiple reforms have stabilized the tax structure both in rate structure and in categorization of goods and services, further encouraging the tax collections.
- (d) Rates must be increased to bring the stabilization in tax structure.
- (e) None of these
- 26.** The aviation market has seen a long spell of unprecedeted growth over the past few decades. However, 2016 was the first year in a decade that Indian airlines collectively came into the black. Moreover, The Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation predicts consolidated industry losses of between \$430-460 million in FY19. Jet Airways has never truly looked healthy after its troubles during the dog days at the end of the last decade.
- (a) The unprecedeted investment in aviation industry has resulted in the losses incurred by the companies.
- (b) Due to the unmatched growth of the aviation market, it has experienced low profits over the decades.
- (c) The aviation industry has gained huge profits after the expansion of its resources.
- (d) Despite the market's breakneck growth over the past few decades, the losses of Indian air carriers have often been high.
- (e) None of these
- 27.** President Donald Trump accuses the media of being "the opposition party," implying a failure of objectivity. But it's not a bad thing for opinion journalism, including the editorial boards of major newspapers, to see them as the opposition to Trump. Opposition like that keeps democracy alive, and constitutes one of the core responsibilities of a free press.
- (a) A free press is that it expresses a variety of opinions, especially those that differ from the government.
- (b) Democracy needs the press as opposition for informing the public, by presenting another point of view than the president's.
- (c) Opinions are provisional, not objectively provable.
- (d) The justification for a free press doesn't depend on its being objective.
- (e) None of these

28. Kerala is home to 53 large dams with a collective capacity of nearly 7 trillion litres. For dams to truly tame floods, experts say dam reservoirs need to be relatively empty before the onset of rains. According to Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of the South Asia Network for Dams, Rivers and People, this was not the case in Kerala. The Idukki dam was already near full capacity by July-end even as rains were relatively weak (below normal levels) during that period.

- (a) The damages from the floods could be lowered by relatively emptying the dam reservoirs ahead of monsoon rains.
- (b) Filling up the reservoirs before the end of the monsoon has limited the disaster.
- (c) Unchecked quarrying and construction in ecologically-sensitive areas caused these floods.
- (d) The management is responsible to improve the conditions of dams in Kerala.
- (e) None of these

29. To widen the capital expenditure pie, Indian army must look inward. Given the changing nature of warfare, which is likely to be short and decisive, it also makes strategic sense to require more special

operations forces, cyber war capabilities and integrated/joint operational capabilities.

- (a) India army must modify the policies to increase capital expenditure.
- (b) Defence preparedness cannot be compromised.
- (c) There is little leeway for the government to drastically hike defence spending.
- (d) Indian Army should introspect their practices and should adapt to the changing warfare thus resulting enhancement of expenditure pie.
- (e) None of these

30. The crisis in rural areas today is actually one of too much agriculture — in terms of both relative output and employment. What is needed is more manufacturing units, including those that process and add value to agricultural produce.

- (a) Agriculture sector would gain from the processes of specialisation and division of labour
- (b) Farming ceases to be a difficult occupation.
- (c) Crisis of too much agriculture persists in terms of output and employment which can be improved by value adding processes in rural areas.
- (d) An unleashing rural entrepreneurship is needed.
- (e) None of these

Solutions

1. **(b)**; Read the paragraphs carefully. Among the given paragraphs, only the (III) paragraph concludes the given inference. It is describing about the production of more electric vehicles for private as well as for public transport, to reduce the increasing pollution. However, paragraph (I) has given emphasis on the adoption of alternate mobility technologies. It has also suggested that shared mobility would further help to reduce pollution. While paragraph (II) is suggesting ways that would help in reducing pollution such as presenting incentives, banning polluting technologies and improving infrastructure. It is to be noted that in paragraph (I) and (II) the alternate technology to reduce pollution has not been mentioned whereas, in paragraph (III) the alternate technology of electric vehicles is mentioned. Thus, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.

2. **(c)**; After reading the paragraphs carefully, it can be understood that the paragraphs (I) and (III) depict the given inference. Paragraph (I) has mentioned the release of model tender document of NHPS which states its concerns regarding the

implementation of the scheme in such a vast scale. Moreover, it also expresses its agitation towards the private hospitals which may receive undue benefits from the schemes. Paragraph (III) is describing about the issue mentioned in the model tender document of NHPS of the requisite of pre-authorization to perform on heart ailments and cancer from the NHPS's implementation support agency. Since, all three paragraphs mention the questions raised in The Model Tender Document for The Selection of Implementing Agencies For the NHPS, option (c) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

3. **(a)**; Among the given paragraphs, paragraph (I) and (II) are deducing the given inference in bold. The inference is stating that the latest alterations made in NCERT books didn't follow the revision process like it used to earlier. Though being an autonomous body, this incident shows the weakness of NCERT. Drawing a hint from the sentence of paragraph (I) "The names that figure on the books as "textbook development committees" remain the same, though most of them have not been involved in the

- insertion/revision process", the given inference can be concluded. Moreover, paragraph (II) is also questioning these alterations in a critical manner. This can be understood from the sentence "This, in turn, raises questions about why the current changes have been made as they have". While, the sentence "...in an autonomous body that has shown its ability to take an imaginative course while generating a discursive relationship with all those involved in education, without rendering itself an arm of the state" expresses that NCERT has failed to correctly implement the revision process in spite of being an autonomous body. However, paragraph (III) fails to depict the given inference as it is merely describing the alterations made by NCERT in the textbooks. Thus, option (a) becomes the most viable answer choice.
4. **(c);** The given inference in bold states that with the help of lateral entry at senior levels of bureaucracy better policy making and implementation can be done. After reading the paragraphs, it is inferential that only paragraph (II) provides the given inference since, it is describing about the entry of new and talented personnel at joint-secretary levels which is vital for policy-making and implementation of government schemes. However, paragraph (I) is describing about selecting employees in IAS scheme who becomes versatile while serving different departments which is irrelevant in the context of the inference. In addition to, paragraph (III) is describing about the proposal of selecting process for lateral entry to be clear and appropriate is still unheard. Thus, the given inference can be precisely deduced by only paragraph (II), hence, option (c) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
5. **(e);** The given inference is stating that SBI will not manage the oil payments of Iran. After reading the paragraphs it can be understood that this inference is not expounded in any of them. Paragraph (I) has illustrated the exports data of oil of Iran. While, paragraph (II) has mentioned India's plan to spend foreign capital on energy resources as it might become the third largest energy consumer. Moreover, paragraph (III) has merely provided the imports data of oil of India. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
6. **(d);** Read the paragraphs carefully. The given inference can be concluded from paragraph (I) as well as paragraph (II). Both the paragraphs are clearly depicting *the difference in the view of South*

*Korea's president and US president regarding the denuclearization of North Korea. It can be noted from the sentence in the **paragraph (I)** "Instead he is...denuclearization". This sentence expresses that SK's expects more benefits from US. Moreover, **paragraph (II)** is describing how the matters have gone worse about the denuclearization of North Korea. We can receive the hint from the sentence [the matter of denuclearization... Trump-Kim summit]. However, **paragraph (III)** is describing about North Korea's foreign policy to protect itself from the US attacks. Therefore, **option (d)** becomes the most viable answer choice.*

7. **(e);** Read the paragraphs carefully. Among the given paragraphs all three of them provide the given inference. *It is to be noted that the paragraphs are describing about the requirement of technological innovations in banking industry according to the growing demands by customers for digitization.* Since, all three paragraphs describe the need to improve and innovate the technology in banking sector, **option (e)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.
8. **(a);** Among the given paragraphs, both paragraph (II) and paragraph (III) can be used to infer the given inference. *Paragraph (II) is stating about the consequences the world is facing due to climate change, especially in reference to the agriculture. While, paragraph (III) is also describing how changes in climate is affecting agriculture which will ultimately affect the entire human race as well as animals.* However, **paragraph (I)** has provided information on agriculture pollution and causes leading to it. Hence, **option (a)** becomes the most viable answer choice.
9. **(e);** Read the given paragraph carefully. It should be noted that all three paragraphs are following a mutual theme by describing about the applications of nanotechnology in several fields. *Paragraph (I) is describing about the usage of nanotechnology and nanoparticles in the production of lightweight fabrics for body armors. In addition to, paragraph (II) is describing about the utilization of nanotechnology in the field of medical science by simplifying the complex therapy such as biopsy. Moreover, paragraph (III) is mentioning about the implementation of nanotechnology in production of pesticides and fertilizers.* Since, the given inference can be implied from all the given paragraphs, **option (e)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

10. (b); After reading the paragraphs carefully, it can be understood that the given inference is deducted from paragraph (II). It is to be noted that only **paragraph (II)** is describing about *the negative implication of the policy on the learning of the students that had been implemented in the past*. However, **paragraph (I)** is describing about the *financial management of the school my councils*, thus stands incorrect. Moreover, there might some confusion with **paragraph (III)** since, *it is also describing about the policy implemented for students. However, it does not state any negative effect of the policy which is mentioned in the given inference.* This can be understood from the word "deficit" in the inference. **'Deficit'** means *a deficit is the amount by which a sum falls short of some reference amount*. Here, it is used in reference with 'learning'. Thus, the inference is stating about the policy that has become like a veil to hide the drawbacks of learning system. Therefore, **option (b)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

11. (d); The given inference in bold can be concluded from all the given paragraphs. After reading the paragraphs it can be understood that all of them are illustrating the change required to neutralize the growing dissatisfaction among farmers. **Paragraph (I)** is narrating that farmers are displeased with the policies present to support them. The given inference can be understood with the statement mentioned satirically in the paragraph "**radical, multi-faceted.....incomes by 2022**". Moreover, **paragraph (II)** has described that the present practices by government will not enrich farmers. It has suggested to develop a reform to provide marketing freedom for farmers that will help them to capture a larger share of market. For the given inference, the hint can be drawn from the sentence "**But improved productivity will not enrich farmers by itself**". In addition to, **paragraph (III)** describes about farmers unrest. It has recommended a method to overcome this unrest **[A part of subsidy...productivity-enhancing investment]**. This can be achieved only through a new and updated political reform. Since, all three paragraphs successfully conclude the given inference, **option (d)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

12. (b); After carefully analyzing the paragraphs, it can be understood that only paragraphs (II) and (III) conclude the given inference. It is to be noted that **paragraph (I)** is merely describing the difficulties facing by the PSUs. It does not depict any steps undertaken by the government to overcome these issues. Therefore, it fails to infer

the statement given in bold. However, **Paragraph (II)** is describing about the government's process of recapitalization so as to enhance the lending capacity of banks. The given inference can be deduced from the sentence "**Therefore, it is important that the situation is handled with care**". Moreover, in **paragraph (III)** the given inference can be concluded by drawing a hint from the sentence "**The government, perhaps, needs to put in place a new framework for governance**". Since, among the given paragraphs only paragraph (II) and (III) provides the given conclusion, thus **option (b)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

13. (a); The inference given in bold can be deduced with only the **first paragraph**, since it is describing the need to revolutionize the education system of India. In addition to, it has also mentioned the areas to work in order to build a worthy generation of youths. However, **paragraph (II)** is describing about growth and advancement made by the educational sector of the country. It has appreciated the improve education system especially in higher education and scientific research. Thus, it fails to conclude the given inference. Furthermore, **paragraph (III)** has mentioned the components of an education system and their roles building a sound education system. Therefore, the given inference cannot be concluded with the information given in paragraph (III). Since, only paragraph (I) provides the precise inference, **option (a)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

14. (d); The given inference states that the skill development programmes should consider the skillset required by the market. Among the given paragraphs, this can be deduced by all the three paragraphs. Drawing a hint from the sentence in paragraph (I) "**Organizations must focus on understanding aspirations, industry requirements and standardization across the skill-development value chain**" the given inference can be deduced. In paragraph (II) it mentions the importance of mapping skills as per the needs of employers. The sentence "**NSDC plans to move to a model where training partners will receive funds as per the outcomes achieved**" helps to conclude the given inference. Moreover, paragraph (III) is concluding the given inference from the sentence "**Concentrated and evidence-backed efforts which can cohesively develop and strengthen youth aspirations, the skill development ecosystem and markets where youth can be employed are necessary for India to realize that opportunity.**" Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.

- 15. (c);** The paragraph is all about the moving towards digitizing the public examination. It has further explained the benefits associated with such a move. Thus, among the three given inferences, statements (II) and (III) can be eliminated on the basis of lack of proper and central idea of the paragraph as they just form the parts of the facts given in the paragraph while statement (I) comprehensively expresses the true meaning of the passage and draws the most appropriate inference for the same. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.
- 16. (e);** The paragraph gives a comparative study between the best-ranked Indian higher education institutions with the best-ranked universities of the world. It has further mentioned the areas where the world universities excel over Indian institutions. Thus, among the given three inferences, all of them are out of context of the paragraph as the first inference and the second inference are describing about the rankings of Indian institutions in global level. While the third inference, has mentioned about some ways that would enable the Indian institutions to achieve a global status. Since none of them can be inferred from the given paragraph option (e) becomes the correct choice.
- 17. (a);** The paragraph is describing how the appropriate data collection may reduce number of lives impacted due to natural disasters. Option (a) expresses the inference of the paragraph. All the other options are irrelevant in context of the paragraph. Hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
- 18. (d);** Simultaneous elections mean structuring the Indian election cycle in a manner that elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronised together. The given paragraph is describing about its impact on the federal structure of the nation. All the other options are irrelevant in context to the paragraph. Hence, option (d) successfully infer the meaning of the given paragraph.
- 19. (d);** The given paragraph describes that the economic reforms have noticed a shift in the public perceptions which are influenced by Hindi films. Therefore, option (d) infers the given paragraph in the most appropriate manner. All the other options are irrelevant in the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 20. (b);** The paragraph is describing about the complications in the approach of Internet of Things due to the difficulty in post customer verification. Option (b) aptly infer the meaning of the paragraph. All the other options are irrelevant in context to the paragraph. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 21. (d);** The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is 'The obsolete.....road safety'. Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the passage or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about the old law and provisions necessary to manage the fast growing vehicles. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (d).
- 22. (b);** The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is, 'The politics of citizens' registers underlines the problem of migratory politics, refracted through the layered memories of many historical events.' The paragraph is describing about the politics of citizens' registers that has its roots in the colonial era and other historical events. Therefore, the most suitable choice that fits in context to the paragraph is option (b). Other choices are irrelevant in context to the paragraph.
- 23. (a);** The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is, '(a) The multilateral system responsible for trade dispute has been under constant criticism for quiet sometime now due to the stagnancy in the appointment of new Appellate body members, ultimately delayed the work of the WTO appeal mechanism'. The paragraph is describing about the multidimensional system responsible for resolving trade disputes which is under constant criticism due to the delay in appointment of new appellate body members that delayed the work of the WTO appeal mechanism. Therefore, the most suitable choice that fits in context to the paragraph is option (a). Other choices are irrelevant in context to the paragraph.
- 24. (a);** The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is, (a) Curtailing the number of H-1B visas and the scope to work of H-1B visa-holders' in US has caused a disapproval among the Indians and they disapprove the Trump's decision. The paragraph is describing about the disapproval caused among many Indians due to the anti-immigrant policies by Trump. Therefore, the most suitable choice that fits in context to the paragraph is option (a). Other choices are irrelevant in context to the paragraph.

- 25. (a);** The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is, (a) Multiple reforms have not done anything in stabilizing the tax structure both in term of rate or in categorization of goods and services. There is a need for a stabilized GST structure that promises a sustained increase in tax collections. The paragraph is describing about the reforms responsible for resolving trade disputes which is under constant criticism due to the delay in appointment of new appellate body members that delayed the work of the WTO appeal mechanism. Therefore, the most suitable choice that fits in context to the paragraph is option (a). Other choices are irrelevant in context to the paragraph.

26. (d); The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is *“Despite the market’s breakneck growth over the past few decades, the losses of Indian air carriers have often been high”*. Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the paragraph or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about the fall in the profits of the aviation industry despite its unprecedented growth. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (d).

27. (b); The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is *“Democracy needs the press as opposition for informing the public, by presenting another point of view than the president’s”*. Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the paragraph or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about the importance of free journalism in a democracy. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (b).

28. (a); The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is “The damages from the floods could be lowered by relatively emptying the dam reservoirs ahead of monsoon rains”. Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the paragraph or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about the precautions that could be taken to minimize the damages caused due to the floods in Kerala. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (a).

29. (d); The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is “Indian Army should introspect their practices and should adapt to the changing warfare thus resulting enhancement of expenditure pie.” Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the paragraph or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about bringing a change in the inward practices of Indian army to fulfill their capital expenditure. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (d).

30. (c); The correct inference that can be drawn from the paragraph is *“Crisis of too much agriculture persists in terms of output and employment which can be improved by value adding processes in rural areas”*. Other choices are either irrelevant in context to the paragraph or contain contextual errors in them. The paragraph is describing about the crisis of rural areas where agriculture is practiced heavily in terms of output and employment. This situation can be improved by using more manufacturing units and adding value to the processes. Therefore, the only option that draws the correct inference is option (c).

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STUDY TIPS

In such questions a conjunction or a connector is provided followed by few sentences. An appropriate combination of sentences using the given conjunction will mold into a single coherent sentence. Understanding the meaning and the usage of the given conjunction will help to connect the sentences logically. Moreover, sentences of similar subject are more likely to connect with each other. Therefore, understanding the possible usages of the conjunctions/ connectors such as BECAUSE, NOTWITHSTANDING, DESPITE, ALTHOUGH etc. will help to answer such questions.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1-30): In the questions given below few sentences are given which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Connect them by the word given above the statements in the best possible way without changing the intended meaning. Choose your answer accordingly from the options to form a correct, coherent sentence.

1. ALTHOUGH

- (I) The report cites research that shows that gender gaps cause an average income loss of 15 percent in the OECD economies, 40 percent of which is due to entrepreneurship gaps.
 - (II) The vast majority of the economies monitored have laws establishing non-discrimination in employment based on gender.
 - (III) Only 76 mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value and 37 economies have no laws protecting pregnant workers from dismissal.
- (a) only (II)-(III)
(b) only (III)-(I)
(c) Both (I)-(III) and (I)-(II)
(d) only (II)-(I)
(e) none of these

2. ASSUMING THAT

- (I) Although it is risky but many banks use One Time Password (OTP) method for authentication of online payments.
 - (II) It is expected that new vulnerabilities in mobile payments shall be discovered.
 - (III) Only a phone's owner will see a message sent to it.
- (a) only (II)-(III) (b) only (I)-(II)
(c) only (III)-(II) (d) only (I)-(III)
(e) none of these

3. THAN

- (I) Their work will likely contribute to making the next generation of ultralow-power communications and sensory devices smaller and with greater detection and tuning ranges.
 - (II) Researchers are developing atomically thin 'drumheads'-- tens of trillions of times thinner.
 - (III) The human eardrum is able to receive and transmit signals across a radio frequency range far greater than what we can hear with the human ear.
- (a) only (II)-(I) (b) only (II)-(III)
(c) only (III)-(II) (d) only (I)-(III)
(e) none of these

4. EVEN THOUGH

- (I) You can email photos to yourself from various computers and download these photos to your iPad.
 - (II) You can't easily put photos on an iPad from more than one computer.
 - (III) It isn't easy to keep the order of photos when transferring them from PC to iPad Photo.
- (a) only (II)-(I) (b) only (II)-(III)
(c) only (III)-(II) (d) only (I)-(III)
(e) none of these

5. SINCE

- (I) 'Avatar', a James Cameron movie took the world by storm in 2009.
 - (II) With over \$1.2 billion collection worldwide, 'Black Panther' is the biggest Non-Sequel blockbuster.
 - (III) 'Black Panther' wins the box-office for the 5th straight weekend.
- (a) only (I)-(III)
(b) only (II)-(I)
(c) only (III)-(I)
(d) both (I)-(II) and (II)-(III)
(e) all of the above

6. TILL

- (A) The Supreme Court had earlier this month extended the deadline for linking of various services with Aadhaar.
- (B) Aadhaar number holders can view the details of Aadhaar Authentication they have done.
- (C) The new deadline will be announced once the Supreme Court delivers its judgment on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the biometrical identification scheme.
- (D) This will enable service providers and Aadhaar number holders to verify if the Aadhaar number is valid and is not deactivated.
- (a) Only A-D (b) Only A-C
 (c) Only A-B (d) Both A-B and C-D
 (e) None of these

7. PROVIDED THAT

- (A) It is your responsibility to ensure that the builder understands and complies with all the bank's conditions of the loan.
- (B) You can apply for progress payments at any stage during the construction process.
- (C) Progress payments are made only if sufficient work has been completed and the bank is satisfied with the progress.
- (D) A maximum of six progress payments are often allowed, based on the work completed.
- (a) Only A-D (b) Only A-C
 (c) Only B-C (d) Both A-B and C-D
 (e) None of these

8. IN ORDER TO

- (A) Fluent conversations can be enjoyed with the knowledge of idioms and phrases.
- (B) English sound more eloquent, through idiomatic expressions, popular phrases and proverbs.
- (C) Eloquent designs the technology to let computers participate in those conversations.
- (D) Gaining familiarity with several idioms and phrases helps you to carry eloquent conversations.
- (a) Only A-D (b) Only A-C
 (c) Only B-C (d) Both A-B and C-D
 (e) None of these

9. NOTWITHSTANDING

- (A) The proud claim is Manipur gifted the game of modern Polo to the world,
- (B) Manipuri ponies which are central to the game are facing a very precarious situation of possible extinction sooner rather than later.
- (C) Most of the Manipuri ponies are kept at home but they are let to roam and graze freely on roads and public places.

- (D) There are also many cases of ponies dying from consuming poisonous waste materials disposed of on road sides.
- (a) Only A-D (b) Both A-C and B-C
 (c) Only B-C (d) Only A-B
 (e) None of these

10. WHENEVER

- (A) In the name of education, all sorts of slaveries are nourished.
- (B) As some Indian officials have indicated, the days of carving out separate 'spheres of influence' are over.
- (C) As such, it remains a big question how the policy would be translated into action and what would be the fate of Manipur.
- (D) Every generation passes on, by way of inheritance, its jealousies, enmities, stupidities to the new generation through the teacher.
- (a) Only A-D (b) Only A-C
 (c) Only B-C (d) Only A-B
 (e) None of these

11. WHILE

- (A) LinkedIn found that 71% of employees now have a "side hustle," and among them, 40% have used allotted time off to work on these extra endeavors.
- (B) It should be stressed that real time off from work and vacations promote productivity and better health in the long-term.
- (C) LinkedIn found that at least one-third (36%) of these workers said they found success by pursuing a passion project.
- (D) It is up to employees ultimately as to how they choose to use their time.
- (a) A-B (b) C-D
 (c) B-D (d) both B-D and C-B
 (e) none of these

12. ONLY IF

- (A) Families who were caught together at the US-Mexico border and separated are now being offered the opportunity to reunite.
- (B) Agencies involved in family separation were so badly coordinated that it was nearly impossible for parents and immigration attorneys to locate children.
- (C) Families must agree to deportation, giving up their attempts to seek asylum and stay in the US.
- (D) Either a parent can keep fighting for asylum and accept that he may not be able to see his children for the months or years his case might take — or he can give up, waive both his own rights and the rights of his child.
- (a) A-D (b) A-C
 (c) B-C (d) both A-C and B-C
 (e) none of these

13. UNLESS

14. WHEREIN

15. WHILE

16. ALTHOUGH

17. HOWEVER

18. AS

19. ALTHOUGH

- (A) The fastest-growing Top 10 US import commodity from the European Union through May was unsweetened waters.

- (B) The Trump administration unveiled tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March.
 (C) US trans-Atlantic containerized trade growth with the European Union slowed in the first five months of the year.
 (D) Tariffs did not apply to the European Union until the start of June.
 (a) Only (B) – (D)
 (b) Only (A) – (C)
 (c) Both (A) – (B) and (B) – (C)
 (d) Both (C) – (D) and (A) – (C)
 (e) None of these

20. NOT ONLY...BUT ALSO

- (A) Cars would be freed from their reliance on planet-killing fossil fuels.
 (B) Researchers are working on making solar panels lighter, nicer looking, and more efficient.
 (C) The next generation of solar materials will be applied like paint, turning a whole vehicle (or just about anything else) into a solar panel.
 (D) Cars will be spared from the need for a charging infrastructure whose slow growth remains a major pain point.
 (a) Only (B) – (C)
 (b) Only (A) – (B)
 (c) Only (A) – (D)
 (d) Both (A) – (D) and (B) – (C)
 (e) None of these

21. BY VIRTUE OF

- (A) Many brilliant, forceful leaders truly believe that there is in the world one person who is truly indispensable.
 (B) His long experience at the United Nations makes him indispensable to the talks.
 (C) In order to cut costs, my boss has asked me to eliminate all positions that are not indispensable to day-to-day operations.
 (D) Leaders become indispensable by making it to the top of whatever empire they run, they are made for life.
 (a) Only (B) – (C)
 (b) Only (A) – (B)
 (c) Only (A) – (D)
 (d) Both (A) – (D) and (B) – (C)
 (e) None of these

22. UNLESS

- (A) With the nation in the grip of a heatwave, MPs have warned that heat-related deaths in the UK will treble by the middle of the century.
 (B) the government should intervene urgently to control the prices of new cars, claimed by a leading motor figure.
 (C) the government needs to tackle the new public health emergency of heat-related deaths.

- (D) New car prices could soar by €3,000 under a new emissions system.
 (a) Only (B) – (C)
 (b) Only (D) – (B)
 (c) Only (A) – (C)
 (d) Both (D) – (B) and (A) – (C)
 (e) None of these

23. BECAUSE

- (A) The fuel economy of an automobile is the relationship between the distance traveled and the amount of fuel consumed by the vehicle.
 (B) The New European Driving Cycle is a driving cycle, last updated in 1997, designed to assess the emission levels of car engines.
 (C) Tests under the more realistic Worldwide harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure system are producing mostly higher figures for emissions.
 (D) Fuel consumption is shown to be higher than it was under the outdated New European Driving Cycle regime.
 (a) Only (B) – (C)
 (b) Only (C) – (D)
 (c) Only (A) – (C)
 (d) Both (D) – (B) and (A) – (C)
 (e) None of these

24. WHILE

- (A) The bench had earlier slammed the authorities, saying it will be an embarrassment if the UNESCO withdraws its world heritage tag accorded to the ivory-white marble mausoleum.
 (B) Director General of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) will be responsible for maintenance of the Taj Mahal.
 (C) joint secretary of Ministry of Environment and commissioner of Agra Division will jointly be in-charge of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ).
 (D) On the last date of hearing the bench of justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta had wanted to know who is in charge of the Mughal era monument.
 (a) Only (C) – (D)
 (b) Only (A) – (D)
 (c) Only (B) – (C)
 (d) Both (A) – (B) and (C) – (D)
 (e) none of these

25. WHEREAS

- (A) The authorities suspended the rail services in the Valley.
 (B) The Army fired live ammunitions to quell the mob, injuring, at least, five people.
 (C) The Army conducted searches following the reports about the presence of separatist militants.
 (D) The shutdown called by the separatists closed marketplaces and public transport services.

- (a) Only (C) – (D)
- (b) Only (A) – (D)
- (c) Only (B) – (C)
- (d) Both (A) – (B) and (C) – (D)
- (e) none of these

26. SINCE

- (A) Mining development in India has been hobbled for a variety of reasons, from unfriendly government policy
- (B) Arvind Panagariya argues that, any move that seeks to make imports costlier as an import-substitution regime should be avoided.
- (C) India would do better to have a viable export-led strategy and concentrate on removing bottlenecks.
- (D) A liberal trade regime results in cheaper imports and more competitive exports.
- (a) Only (D) – (B)
- (b) Only (A) – (C)
- (c) Only (D) – (A)
- (d) Both (A) – (B) and (C) – (D)
- (e) none of these

27. ONCE

- (A) E-commerce in India has changed the way millions of Indians shop and simultaneously influenced operations of manufacturers and service providers.
- (B) The salient feature of this policy is the strategic intent which underpins it.
- (C) These advances have simultaneously transformed many areas such as financial payments.
- (D) The e-commerce phenomenon piggybacks on path breaking advances in information and communications technology.
- (a) Only (D) – (B)
- (b) Only (A) – (C)
- (c) Only (D) – (A)
- (d) Both (A) – (B) and (C) – (D)
- (e) none of these

28. SO THAT

- (A) a content creator can have the confidence that an end viewer can see exactly the images the Netflix content creators slaved so hard to create.

- (B) The new X1 Ultimate processor, is reckoned to be around twice as powerful as the previous X1 Extreme system.

- (C) Netflix Calibrated Mode automatically adjusts picture settings when you're watching the built-in Netflix app.

- (D) The image in Netflix Calibrated Mode resembles as closely as possible the way Netflix's content creators saw things when mastering their shows and movies.

- (a) Only (C) – (A)
- (b) Only (B) – (C)
- (c) Only (B) – (A)
- (d) Both (C) – (D) and (C) – (A)
- (e) none of these

29. ONLY IF

- (A) The tone of his voice, his manner of speaking, his walk, gestures, and the lines of his face and the expression of his eyes, were all carefully observed.

- (B) All these features need to be satisfied to admit him as a probationer.

- (C) He became a probationer for the Scottish ministry in 1661 just before episcopal government was re-established in Scotland.

- (D) These features weren't on the site when it was first launched because the necessary data did not yet exist.

- (a) Only B-D
- (b) Only C-A
- (c) Only A-B
- (d) Both B-C and A-D
- (e) None of these

30. WHILE

- (A) Regulator SEBI is planning to broaden the scope of cybersecurity initiatives for the market infrastructure institutions.

- (B) Asian share markets crept cautiously higher on Monday as investors awaited developments on proposed Sino-US trade talks

- (C) The broader markets also participated in the rally today with the Nifty Midcap index rising over a percent.

- (D) All sectorial indices ended in the green with Nifty Bank, FMCG, Metal and Pharma rising 1-2 percent.

- (a) Only B-D
- (b) Only C-D
- (c) Only A-B
- (d) Both B-C and A-D
- (e) All of these

Solutions

1. **(a)**; Although the vast majority of the economies monitored have laws establishing non-discrimination in employment based on gender, only 76 mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value and 37 economies have no laws protecting pregnant workers from dismissal.
2. **(d)**; Although it is risky but many banks use One Time Password (OTP) method for authentication of online payments assuming that only a phone's owner will see a message sent to it.
3. **(b)**; Researchers are developing atomically thin 'drumheads'-- tens of trillions of times thinner than the human eardrum which is able to receive and transmit signals across a radio frequency range far greater than what we can hear with the human ear.
4. **(a)**; Even though you can't easily put photos on an iPad from more than one computer you can email them to yourself from various computers and download these photos to your iPad.
5. **(b)**; With over \$1.2 billion collection worldwide 'Black Panther' is the biggest Non-Sequel blockbuster since 'Avatar', a James Cameron movie which took the world by storm in 2009.
6. **(b)**; **Statements (A) and (C)** can be joined together using the phrase **"till"**. *The two words until and till mean exactly the same. They are both a preposition and a conjunction. Until is often shorted to "till" and the choice of one or the other is on formality vs. informality in writing as well as on harmonics in the speech.* Both the sentences are in the similar context and therefore, the statement thus formed is **"The Supreme Court had earlier this month extended the deadline for linking of various services with Aadhaar till it delivers its judgment on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the biometrical identification scheme."** Hence, option **(b)** is the most viable answer choice.
7. **(c)**; **Statements (B) and (C)** can be joined together using the phrase **"Provided that"**. *'Provided that' is the one that's more often used as a conjunction. It means that one thing happening is dependent on another thing happening.* Both the sentences are in the similar context and sentence **(B)** is dependent on the condition given in statement **(C)**. Therefore, the statement thus formed is **"You can apply for progress payments at any stage during the construction process provided that sufficient work has been completed and the bank is satisfied with the progress."** Hence, option **(c)** is the most viable answer choice.
8. **(a)**; **Statements (A) and (D)** can be joined together using the phrase **"In order to"**. *'In order to' expresses the purpose and answer the question why something is done.* Both the sentences are in the similar context therefore, sentence **(D)** **[Gaining familiarity with several idioms and phrases]** should be done to achieve the objective of sentence **(A)** **[Fluent conversations can be enjoyed]**. Hence, the statement thus formed is **"In order to become fluent and enjoy conversations, it is important to get familiar with idioms and phrases."** Hence, option **(a)** is the most viable answer choice.
9. **(d)**; **Statements (A) and (B)** can be joined together using the phrase **"Notwithstanding"**. *'Notwithstanding' means although; in spite of the fact that.* Both the sentences are in the similar context therefore, the single coherent sentence thus formed is **"Notwithstanding the proud claim that Manipur gifted the game of modern Polo to the world, Manipuri ponies which are central to the game are facing a very precarious situation of possible extinction sooner rather than later."** Hence, option **(d)** is the most viable answer choice.
10. **(e)**; All the statements given are independent and complete themselves. It should be noted that all the four statements cannot be contextually linked together using the given phrase or conjunction. Hence, option **(e)** becomes the most suitable choice.
11. **(c)**; Option **(c)** is the correct choice. The sentence can be used with the conjunction 'while' in such a way, **"While it should be stressed that real time off from work and vacations promote productivity and better health in the long term ,it is up to the employees ultimately as to how they choose to use their time"**. All the other options fail to satisfy the conjunction 'while'.
12. **(b)**; Option **(b)** is the most appropriate choice. "Only if" and "if only" are idiomatic phrases that are quite different in meaning. "If" is used to express a condition. When used after only i.e. only if, it expresses a strong condition or the only situation in which something can happen. Hence the statement can be joined as **"Families who were**

caught together at the US-Mexico border and separated are now being offered the opportunity to reunite only if they agree to deportation, giving up their attempts to seek asylum and stay in the US"

13. (d); Option (d) is the most appropriate choice. We use the conjunction unless to mean 'except if'. The clause which follows unless is a subordinate clause. It needs a main clause to make a complete sentence. Unless is a conditional word (like if), so we don't use will or would in the subordinate clause. For example, *Unless I hear from you, I'll see you at two o'clock*. Now the above given sentence can be joined in the following way, "*Unless the violent, intolerant wing of the political left abandons the strong arm tactics to get their ideas accepted, more violence will result and that is a sad prospect for our future.*"

14. (b); Option (b) is the most suitable choice. 'Wherein' is a conjunction as well as an adverb. It means 'in which or in which part'. For example, *The industry will have a situation wherein many companies will be unable to afford to stay in business.*

The above given sentences in options can be joined as "*Politics is arguably the best case study in an act of knowledge and disinformation wherein we can find anything and everything by which we wish to strengthen our narrative, no matter how absurd it is.*"

15. (c); The appropriate choice is option (c). The sentence can be used with the conjunction while in such a way, "*While it was true that the state governments were insisting on keeping the rates high for fear of tax collections falling short, it was never clear why the Centre didn't push for lower rates as it was guaranteeing that states would get 14% growth in their tax revenues in the next five years.*" All the other options fail to satisfy the given conjunction while.

16. (d); The most suitable choice here is option (d). Although and though both mean "in spite of something." They are subordinating conjunctions. This means that the clause that they introduce is a subordinate clause which needs a main clause to make it complete. The sentences can be combined with the given conjunction in such a form, "*They examined the rest of the garments and each, upon careful observation, was identified in a like fashion although some of the markings were so faded they were no longer legible.*"

17. (c); The appropriate option here is option (c). However is a conjunction which is used to introduce a statement that contrasts with or seems to contradict something that has been said previously. Here however can be used in the

following way to combine the given sentences (A) and (B) i.e. "*The Taiwanese government is claiming that the People's Republic of China would invade the island state if the U.S. withdrew its support for Taipei, however, it is dubious that Beijing has the amphibious assault capacity or capability to conduct a successful sea-based invasion of Taiwan where a forcible entry is required.*"

18. (b); The most suitable choice is option (b). "As" when used in the form of conjunction is used to indicate that something happens during the time when something else is taking place. The two sentences (C) and (D) can be combined in the given way by using this conjunction: "*A growing number of exchanges have stopped fiat support as Indian crypto currency exchanges ramp up peer-to-peer and crypto-to-crypto trading.*"

19. (a); Statements (B) and (D) form the precise combination to mold a coherent sentence using the subordinating conjunction "Although". Although is used to express "in spite of the fact that; even though." Therefore, the coherent sentence thus formed is "*Although the Trump administration unveiled tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March, they did not apply to the European Union until the start of June.*" All the other combinations fail to form a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

20. (c); Statements (A) and (D) form the precise combination to mold a coherent sentence using the correlative conjunction "not only...but also". When using 'not only' and 'but also' in a sentence, they must have parallel structure, or include the same parts of speech for each piece of information. Therefore, the grammatically correct sentence thus formed is "*Cars would be freed not only from their reliance on planet-killing fossil fuels, but also from the need for a charging infrastructure whose slow growth remains a major pain point.*" Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.

21. (c); Statements (A) and (D) can be joined together using the connector "by virtue of" to form a coherent sentence. "By virtue of" is used to express "on account of or by reason of". Therefore, the sentence thus formed is "*Many brilliant, forceful leaders truly believe that there is in the world one person who is truly indispensable and that by virtue of making it to the top of whatever empire they run, they are made for life.*" Therefore, option (c) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

22. (d); Both the combinations of sentences (D) - (B) and (A) - (C) successfully form coherent sentences using the conjunction "unless". "Unless" means except if (used to introduce the case in which a statement being made is not true or valid). Therefore, the meaningful sentences thus formed is "*New car prices could soar by €3,000 under a new emissions system unless the government intervenes urgently, a leading motor figure has claimed*" and "*With the nation in the grip of a heatwave, MPs have warned that heat-related deaths in the UK will treble by the middle of the century unless the government tackles this new public health emergency*" respectively. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
23. (b); Statements (C) and (D) form the precise combination to mold a coherent sentence using the conjunction "because". 'Because' means 'for the reason that; since'. Therefore, the grammatically correct sentence thus formed is "*Tests under the more realistic Worldwide harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure system are producing high figures for emissions because fuel consumption is shown to be higher than it was under the outdated New European Driving Cycle regime*". Hence, option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
24. (c); Statements (B) and (C) can be joined together to form a meaningful sentence using the conjunction 'while'. "While" is used as a conjunction to refer 'during the time that; at the same time as'. Thus, the coherent sentence formed using the statements (B) and (C) is "*Director General of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) will be responsible for maintenance of the Taj Mahal while joint secretary of Ministry of Environment and commissioner of Agra Division will jointly be in-charge of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)*". All the other combinations fail to form a coherent sentence. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
25. (b); Statements (A) and (D) can be combined successfully using the conjunction 'whereas'. "whereas" is used to refer 'in contrast or comparison with the fact that'. Therefore, using statements (A) and (D), the coherent sentence thus formed is "*The authorities suspended the rail services in the Valley whereas the shutdown called by the separatists closed marketplaces and public transport services*". All the other combinations fail to form a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence. Hence, option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
26. (a); Statements (D) and (B) can be joined together using the conjunction 'since' to form a coherent sentence. 'Since' is used to express 'for the reason that; because'. Therefore, using the statements (D) and (B) the meaningful sentence thus formed is "*Since a liberal trade regime results in cheaper*

imports and more competitive exports Arvind Panagariya argues that, any move that seeks to make imports costlier as an import-substitution regime should be avoided". All the other combinations fail to form a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.

27. (e); None of the given combinations can successfully form a coherent sentence using the conjunction "Once". "Once" is used to refer 'as soon as; when'. As, none of the statements can be interlinked with each other therefore, option (e) is the most feasible answer choice.
28. (d); Combinations (C) - (D) and (C) - (A) can form grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentences using the connector "so that". 'So that' is used as a subordinate clause to show purpose or to give an explanation. It is used to show an action producing an intended result or a cause producing an effect. Therefore, the meaningful sentences thus formed using the combination of statements (C) - (D) and (C) - (A) are "*Netflix Calibrated Mode automatically adjusts picture settings when you're watching the built-in Netflix app so that the image resembles as closely as possible the way Netflix's content creators saw things when mastering their shows and movies*" and "*Netflix Calibrated Mode automatically adjusts picture settings when you're watching the built-in Netflix app so that a content creator can have the confidence that an end viewer can see exactly the images the Netflix content creators slaved so hard to create*". All the other combinations do not form grammatically correct and meaningful sentences thus, option (d) is the most feasible answer choice.
29. (c); Statements (A) and (B) form the precise combination to mold a coherent sentence using the conjunction "only if". 'Only if' expresses a strong condition or the only situation in which something can happen. Therefore, the grammatically correct sentence thus formed is "*The tone of his voice, his manner of speaking, his walk, gestures, and the lines of his face and the expression of his eyes, were all carefully observed, and only if all these features were satisfied was he admitted as a probationer*". Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
30. (b); Statements (C) and (D) form the precise combination to mold a coherent sentence using the conjunction "while". 'While' means during the time that; at the same time as. Therefore, the grammatically correct sentence thus formed is "*The broader markets also participated in the rally today with the Nifty Midcap index rising over a percent while all sectorial indices ended in the green with Nifty Bank, FMCG, Metal and Pharma rising 1-2 percent*". Hence, option (b) is the most viable answer choice.



STUDY TIPS

In such questions a phrase/ clause/ idiom is highlighted in the sentence which is followed by few statements that tries to decipher its meaning. A thorough knowledge of phrases and idioms helps to solve such questions. Moreover, it is important to understand the gist and tone of the sentence to appropriately comprehend the sentence. It should be observed that the correct alternative should not alter the context of the given sentence. Sometimes, the theme of the sentence assists to interpret the meaning of the highlighted sentence.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-20): In the following question a part of the sentence is given in bold, it is then followed by three sentences which try to explain the meaning of the phrase given in bold. Choose the best set of alternatives from the five options given below each question which explains the meaning of the phrase correctly without altering the meaning of the given sentence.

1. Since January, **the U.S.'s Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act** against those conducting business with Russia and Iran, as well as its decision to walk out of the Iran nuclear deal have come right up against India's interests.

(I) Since January, the efforts of the United States to counter its difficulties by implementing Sanctions Act against the countries who are involved in business with Russia and Iran, along with its decision to leave the Iran nuclear deal have clashed directly with India's interests.

(II) The United States, since January, is tackling with the difficulties of the America with the help of Sanctions Act against those nations who are having business deals with Russia and Iran, together with its decision to depart from the Iran nuclear deal is coming right up in India's interests.

(III) Since January, the endeavors of the United States to minimize its problems by having sanctions on the Act against the nations who are involving themselves in business relations with Russia and Iran, as well as its decision to walk out of the Iran deal have come right up against India's interests.

- (a) Only (I) is correct
- (b) Only (III) is correct
- (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
- (d) Only (II) is correct.
- (e) All are correct

2. Despite the outrage, police brutality towards children and the separation of children from their parents is nothing new in the U.S. Mr. Trump is merely **the most vicious and crude manifestation of it**.

(I) Despite the outrage, the cruelty of the police towards children and dissociation of children from their parents have not happened in the past in U.S. Mr. Trump is nothing more than the most ferocious and rude demonstration of the cruelty.

(II) The brutality of the police towards children and their separation from their parents had always been happening in the past in U.S. because of the outrage of the people and Mr. Trump is solely a cruel and vulgar display of the brutality.

(III) In spite of the fury, the savagery of the police towards children and the disunion of the children from their parents have happened in past in the U.S. Mr. Trump is purely the most brutal and rude representation of that savagery.

- (a) Only (I) is correct
- (b) Only (II) is correct
- (c) Only (III) is correct.
- (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
- (e) All are correct

3. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez's win will likely reverberate through the Democratic Party, and possibly put the Republicans on notice as well, for it was built on **an entirely different ethos from the unfettered rein** given to corporate America by the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court in 2010.

(I) The win of Ms. Ocasio-Cortez will probably echo through the Democratic Party, and plausibly send warning among the Republicans as well, because it was constructed on an absolutely different ethics in comparison to the wide-open controls that were given by the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court in 2010 to the American corporates.

- (II) Ms. Ocasio-Cortez's win will possibly reverberate through the Democratic Party, and probably send a notice to the Republicans, because it was based on a totally different climate as compared to the confined powers given to the corporate America by the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court in 2010.
- (III) As Ms. Ocasio-Cortez's win was built on a completely different character as opposed to the unrestricted powers that were granted to corporate America by the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court in 2010, it will possibly resonate through the Democratic Party, and probably make the Republicans attentive too.
- (a) Only (I) is correct.
 (b) Both (I) and (II) are correct.
 (c) Both (II) and (III) are correct.
 (d) Both (I) and (III) are correct.
 (e) All are correct
4. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who has been president since 2014 and whose party, the AKP, has been in power since 2002, **snuffed out the hopes of government critics** and secured the presidency with over 52 percent of the vote.
- [I] By securing the presidency with more than 52 percent of the vote, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who has been president since 2014 from the AKP party which is in power since 2002, has suppressed the hopes of its critics.
- [II] President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who has been president since 2014 and whose party, the AKP, has been in power since 2002, developed the hopes for government critics by securing the presidency with over 52 percent of the vote.
- [III] Since 2014, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been the president from the party AKP which has been in power since 2002, has supported the hopes of government critics and secured the presidency with over 52 percent of the vote.
- (a) only (I) (b) only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these
5. Messi may be more humane, humble and yes, brilliant, but he **couldn't cut the mustard** to take his team past the tape.
- [I] Even though Messi is more humane, humble and brilliant, but he couldn't help his team to successfully achieve the winnings.
- [II] Despite Messi being so humane, humble and brilliant, he failed to accomplish a winning position for his team.
- [III] However, humane, humble and brilliant Messi is, he failed to recognize the weaknesses in the team and was unable to stop it from faltering.
- (a) only (I) (b) only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these
6. After frequently switching electoral partners, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar does not enjoy high political credibility despite his efforts to **couch opportunism in idealistic garb**.
- [I] Since, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar frequently switches electoral partners, he is not considered as a trustworthy partner even after his attempts to redeem favorable circumstances in the guise of idealism.
- [II] Chief Minister Nitish Kumar declines every opportunity that comes his way that renders him as an ideal politician as he seldom switches electoral partners.
- [III] Chief Minister Nitish Kumar does not enjoy high political credibility as he switches electoral partners whenever he sees an advantage, but he does that in the pretext of idealism.
- (a) Both (I) and (III)
 (b) only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these
7. He **hit the nail on the head** when he said that most people won't change their ways and continue to blame the system for all their ills.
- (I) His opinion that most people won't change their ways and continue to blame the system for all their ills was agreed by everyone.
- (II) He was very accurate when he said that majority of the people do not tend to change their ways and never fail to blame the system for all their difficulties.
- (III) He was pretty much right when he uttered that almost all people fail to change their ways and persevere to blame the system for all of their troubles.
- (a) Only (III) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
8. While Hollywood has produced **countless tales of AI-induced woe**, the vast majority of these movies have proven to be poor predictors of how AI could potentially work, in strictly theoretical terms.
- (I) Hollywood has produced innumerable tales of tribulation effectuated by AI, but most of those movies have not succeeded in predicting the real working potential of AI, precisely in theory.
- (II) Many movies have been produced by Hollywood which portrayed AI as something which causes lots of agony, but majority of these movies have been substandard in foretelling the working capacity of AI, in rigorously conceptual terms.

- (III) A number of Hollywood movies have shown AI to be something that causes lots of serenity to people but none of them have been able to anticipate the true potential of AI, in exact theoretical terms.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
9. Carl Robinson sees himself not merely as a comedian, however, but as **a voice crying in the wilderness**, revealing the truth behind the day's events, trying to disabuse comfortable New Yorkers of their comfortable illusions.
- (I) Carl Robinson sees himself not merely as a comedian but also as a person who says things related to the daily lives of people who are not socially acceptable, trying to convince the New Yorkers that their life is full of cozy illusions, thinks Carl Robinson.
- (II) Carl Robinson observes himself not only as a mere comedian, but also as a person who discloses truths about everyday life that no one wants to accept, in an attempt to persuade the New Yorkers that the pleasant life they live is nothing more than comfortable illusions.
- (III) Carl Robinson says that he is not just a comedian, but an orthodox person who practices a conventional method of telling the happy New Yorkers about the illusions in which they live their everyday life.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (d) Only (III) is correct.
 (e) All are correct
10. Should you be heading to Australia on a full working visa, **you'll need to wrap your head around** their tax laws and regulations so that you don't find yourself in violation of any directives.
- (I) If you are moving to Australia on a full working visa, you must understand completely their tax laws and regulations so that you don't fail to comply with any of their authoritative instructions.
- (II) The knowledge of Australian's tax norms and regulations will help you to attain full time working visa, since you won't violate any of their directives.
- (III) While relocating to Australia on a full working visa, you must have the entire understanding of their tax norms and regulations, so that you don't breach their official policies.
- (a) Only (III) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
11. As tempting as it is, **don't burn bridges at work** is a good rule, especially over something relatively minor.
- (I) However strong the urge is, you shouldn't spoil your relationships at your work place, particularly over a minor issue.
- (II) The policy of not ruining your work relationships in your work place works better, only in minor issues.
- (III) The policy of not working efficiently in your workplace serves good, especially in case of minor projects.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
12. Emerging economies do need a tool to stabilize capital flows, intervention by central banks in foreign exchange markets is a blunt instrument with **many uncontrolled spillover effects**.
- (I) There is a requirement to introduce a new method to stabilize capital flows in emerging economies, since the interference by central banks in foreign markets has severe consequences in various economic fields.
- (II) Emerging economies must develop a new instrument to liquify capital flows, as the instruments of central banks in foreign exchange markets have caused several economic effects.
- (III) Central bank's dealings in foreign exchange market is an instrument to stabilize capital flows in emerging economies, however, its outcomes are unsatisfactory.
- (a) Only (III) is correct
 (b) Only (I) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
13. The up-and-down relationship between President Donald Trump and the Chinese government has hit another rough patch, and experts say the US president is **treading on thin ice**.
- (I) The problems in the relationship between President Donald Trump and the Chinese government have increased which led the US government to enter in risky trades.
- (II) The to-and-fro relationship between the US president and Chinese government has hit another rough patch, while in expert's opinion the US president will face major consequences.

(III) According to the experts, the US President Donald Trump is taking huge risk since, the fluctuating relationship between the US president and the Chinese government has hit another low.

(a) Only (III) is correct
 (b) Only (I) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct

14. The future growth that is assumed, depends on the sustainability of natural capital, which is threatened due to the **myopic pursuit of GDP growth**.

- (I) The expected growth which relies on the optimum utilization of natural capital, is difficult to achieve as, the focus is merely on the short-term growth of GDP.
- (II) Sustainable development shall help to achieve the assumed growth along with the short-term growth in GDP.
- (III) Due to the short-term plans for GDP growth, the expected future growth may not be achieved which depends on the viable utilization of natural resources.
- (a) Only (III) is correct
 (b) Only (I) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct

15. Tesla and SpaceX CEO, Elon Musk, warned in 2016 that, if artificial intelligence is left unregulated, humans could **devolve into the equivalent of house cats** next to increasingly powerful supercomputers.

- (I) In 2016, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon Musk said that if artificial intelligence is not controlled properly, the very powerful supercomputers will mutate humans into house cats.
- (II) Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, alerted in 2016 that artificial intelligence will be left unregulated and humans will transform into house cats before extremely powerful supercomputers.
- (III) In 2016, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, cautioned that if artificial intelligence will not be properly regulated, in future, the human condition will deteriorate into something similar to domesticated pets in front of increasingly powerful computers.
- (a) Only (II) is correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct

16. The complaints, **brought to light by the nonpartisan government watchdog Common Cause, call on federal prosecutors and regulators** to investigate whether the UK-based data analytics group violated a US law barring foreign nationals from participating in certain election-related activities through its work for Donald Trump's campaign.

(I) The complaints against the UK-based data analytics group, put forward by the unbiased government security-keeping organization Common Cause, appealed the federal prosecutors and regulators to probe whether a US law which blocks foreigners from involving in some of the election-related activities, was breached by the data analytics firm during its assistance to Donald Trump's campaign.

(II) The complaints that were brought to everybody's attention by an evenhanded government organization for the common cause, urged the federal law makers to check whether there was transgression of a US law that stops foreign people from entering into any election-related works by the UK-based data analytics group while working for Donald Trump's campaign.

(III) Common Cause, an impartial law-keeping government organization, highlighted complaints against the UK-based data analytics group, requesting the federal prosecutors and regulators to scrutinize whether a US law that prohibits foreign persons from indulging in few activities related to election, was infringed by the data analytics firm while contributing to Donald Trump's campaign.

- (a) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Only (I) is correct
 (d) Only (II) is correct
 (e) All are correct

17. Venezuela threw a late **spanner in the works** when Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta told ministers during preliminary talks that with a new government taking over in February he could not commit to an extension of the existing production cuts.

- (I) Keeping in mind that a new government was taking over in February in Venezuela, Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta told the ministers during initial talks that he could not commit to an extension of the prevailing production cuts, thereby hindering the process.
- (II) Venezuela obeyed the agreement when during introductory talks, the ministers were told by Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta that since a new government was taking control in February, he cannot commit to an addendum of existing production cuts.

(III) Venezuela hurled a wrench on the ministers during the preparatory talks, when Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta told them that because a new government was taking over in February and so, he would not commit to an enhancement of the existing production cuts.

- (a) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (b) Only (I) is correct
 (c) Only (II) is correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct.
 (e) All are correct

18. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah **set the cat among the pigeons** when he highlighted Kannada pride by unveiling an official state flag last month.

- (I) The chief minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah precipitated a controversy when he accentuated the Kannada pride by revealing an official state flag last month.
 (II) Karnataka Chief minister Siddaramaiah provoked a ceasefire when he highlighted Kannada pride by introducing an official state flag last month.
 (III) Last month when the chief minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah divulged the official state flag as the Kannada pride, he initiated a fierce argument.
 (a) both (I) and (III)
 (b) both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (II)
 (d) All (I) (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these

19. In the latest football news, PSG forward, Mbappe-aged 19 years, underlined his rich talent and claimed his place in the French record books when **he poked home in the first half**.

- (I) The late news of football reported, Mbappe, a 19 years old PSG forward undermine his talent and recorded his place in French record books when he saved the goal in the first half.
 (II) According to the latest football news, a 19 years old PSG forward, Mbappe, underscored his talent and registered himself in French record books when he poked a player in the first half of the game.
 (III) Mbappe- a forward of PSG, aged 19 years, showcased his immense talent and positioned himself in French record books when scored a goal in the first half of the game as reported in the latest football news.
 (a) both (I) and (II)
 (b) only (III)
 (c) only (II)
 (d) both (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these

20. In Jammu and Kashmir, the post-poll coalition of the two polar opposites, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the People's Democratic Party which ceases to exist now, was never meant to **coalesce into a credible pre-poll alliance**.

- (I) In Jammu and Kashmir, the joining of the two opposite parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the People's Democratic Party after the poll endures now, was in the first place meant to be broken before the poll.

(II) The post-poll coalition of the two conflicting parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the People's Democratic Party that fails to exist now as it was never meant to form a deceptive alliance before the polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

(III) In Jammu & Kashmir, the post-poll coalition of the two totally opposite parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the People's Democratic Party, that does not exist anymore, was almost impossible to be observed as a trustworthy alliance even before the polls.

- (a) both (I) and (II)
 (b) only (III)
 (c) only (II)
 (d) both (II) and (III)
 (e) none of these

Directions (21-25): In the following question a part of the sentence is given in bold, it is then followed by four sentences which try to explain the meaning of the idiom/phrase given in bold. Choose the alternative from the four given below each question which explains the meaning of the phrase correctly without altering the meaning of the sentence given as question. If none of the sentence explains the meaning of the highlighted phrase, choose option (e) i.e., "none of these" as your answer choice.

21. ICICI Bank's troubles are rooted in a 2016 complaint by an investor alleging a **quid pro quo** deal between Ms. Kochhar's immediate family members and the Videocon group, which got a Rs 3250 crore loan from it.

- (a) ICICI bank got in trouble after an investor accused that the deal between Ms Kochhar's immediate family members and the Videocon group was a result of a undue favour granted that got a sum amount of RS 3250 crore loan from it.
 (b) ICICI bank got in trouble after an investor asserted that the deal between Ms Kochhar's immediate family members and the Videocon group was an act of rivalry that got a sum amount of RS 3250 crore loan from it.
 (c) ICICI bank got in trouble after an investor accused that the deal between Ms Kochhar's immediate family members and the Videocon group was an act of a denunciation that got a sum amount of RS 3250 crore loan from it.
 (d) ICICI bank got in trouble after an investor maintained that the deal between Ms Kochhar's immediate family members and the Videocon group was a result of a continued adulmentation that got a sum amount of RS 3250 crore loan from it.
 (e) none of these

22. Journalism needs to come up with alternative words and terms to describe such horrendous attacks on people. The time has come for journalists to drop these **cloak-and-dagger** words.
- Journalism use plain words to describe horrible attacks on people that cannot be justified by use of words that works to conceal such actions.
 - Journalism requires to use alternate words to describe horrible attacks on people that cannot be justified by use of words that works to conceal such actions.
 - Journalism necessitate plain words to describe horrible attacks on people that cannot be justified by use of words that works to conceal such actions.
 - Journalism calls for plain words to describe horrible attacks on people that cannot be justified by use of words that works to conceal such actions.
 - none of these
23. From khap panchayats to various extra-judicial entities, many present cruel invasions into the lives of young people as corrective mechanisms and give a **cloak of respectability** to crimes with the prefix 'honour'.
- Various extra-judicial entities along with khap panchayats present cruel invasive measures as part of corrective measures in the lives of young people and give an honorable garment to crimes with the prefix 'honour'.
 - Various extra-judicial entities along with khap panchayats present cruel invasive measures as correct measure in the lives of young people and give it a respectable status to crimes with the prefix 'honor'.
 - Various extra-judicial entities along with khap panchayats present cruel invasions in young people's lives to correct them and give them a respectable garment.
 - Various extra-judicial entities are engaged in presenting the cruel intrusions in young people's lives as part of the corrective measure and a mark of respectable thing to conceal the wrong doings with prefixes such as 'honour'.
 - none of these
24. Experts opine that India has a solar rooftop power potential of up to 400 GW. The way ahead is to have institutional channel partners to **rev up** rooftop capacity.
- Experts moot that India has a solar rooftop power potential of upto 400 GW. Institutional channel partners have to increase the roof top capacity in order to advance.
 - Experts moot that India has a solar rooftop power potential of upto 400 GW. Institutional channel partners have to decrease the roof top capacity in order to advance.
 - Experts moot that India has a solar rooftop power potential of upto 400 GW. Institutional channel partners have to decelerate the roof top capacity in order to advance.
 - Experts moot that India has a solar rooftop power potential of upto 400 GW. Institutional channel partners have to de-escalate the roof top capacity in order to advance.
 - none of these
25. Modi said nation building required the joint effort of industrialists as well as farmers, workers, bankers and civil servants. Crooks in all spheres must be prosecuted, but all industrialists should not be **tarred with the same brush**.
- Modi said nation building required the cumulative effort of industrialists, farmers, workers, bankers and civil servants. Action should be taken against all the crooks but all industrialists should not be judged under the same category and punished for the mistakes they have not committed.
 - Modi stated nation building required the combined effort of industrialists as well as farmers, workers, bankers and civil servants. Crooks in all spheres must be prosecuted, but all industrialists should not be painted with the same brush.
 - Modi stated nation building required the combined efforts of industrialists as well as farmers, workers, bankers and civil servants. Crooks in all spheres must be prosecuted, but all industrialists should not be painted with the brush.
 - Modi stated nation building required the combined effort of industrialists as well as farmers, workers, bankers and civil servants. Crooks in all spheres must be prosecuted but industrialists should be spared.
 - none of these

Directions (26-30): In the following questions, a phrase/idiom is given in bold whose meaning can be inferred from one of the highlighted words/phrases of four sentences given below each phrase. Choose the most appropriate meaning of the phrase among the four options that can also be replaced by the given phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. If none of the sentences conveys the correct meaning, choose (e) i.e., "None of these" as your answer.

26. **burn the candle at both ends**

- Solving customer crises is a delicate balance, and to make matters more complicated, no two **angry** customers are alike. Some take to social media platforms like YouTube and Twitter while others leave reviews on Yelp and Google.

- (b) He added that "our men are **working day and night** to make sure that crashes do not happen and eventually if it happens, our men are expected to be there within 15 minutes to rescue victims".
- (c) After years of turmoil in Central African Republic thousands have lost their lives; many more lost their homes, logging companies were plundered, vehicles stolen, machines and other timber production equipment **ransacked**.
- (d) 'During road rage, will the driver-less car **fight** for us?', worried Indian asks Elon Musk.
- (e) none of these

27. A hot potato

- (a) Saudi Arabia's crown prince said Iran, Turkey and extremist groups represent a "triangle of **evil**," and predicted the kingdom's confrontation with Gulf Arab neighbor Qatar could last for years.
- (b) The Actor who played Stephen Hawking in Theory of Everything, said in a statement: "We have lost a truly **beautiful mind**, an astonishing scientist and the funniest man I have ever had the pleasure to meet."
- (c) World Against Toys Causing Harm (WATCH) urged countries to ban the most **dangerous** kid's toys that could lead to injury – or death.
- (d) Beijing, which claims more than 80% of the South China Sea, is ramping up its military presence and accelerating construction on **disputed** desert islands.
- (e) none of these

28. Back to the drawing board

- (a) The star of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" Jim Carrey is **making new paintings** and raising eyebrows of political class with anti-Trump and anti-Republicans themes.
- (b) Students should always stay motivated and whatever task they find most odious, they should move to the front of the line and **finish** it first.
- (c) People should always ask themselves one question time and again: How do you know if

you're on the road to **achieve** success or on the road to failure?

- (d) After the death of a woman in Florida from accident caused by self-driving car of Uber, the self-driving technology is **starting it all over again** from scratch.
- (e) none of these

29. be glad to see the back of

- (a) "I'm so happy I'm getting my life back. I'll be glad to see the dialysis **gone**, but I will miss the nurses and the other patients that I've gotten to know in recent times" said the patient struggling with dialysis.
- (b) Former British high jumper Mike Edwards has accused the IAAF of **cowardice** with the rules of athletics' governing body set to bar him from representing Nigeria at the Commonwealth Games.
- (c) This has been a terribly **sad** time for clowns, those purveyors of happiness whose recorded history dates back to ancient Greece.
- (d) China's **runaway** space station Tiangong-1 is all set to re-enter Earth's atmosphere.
- (e) none of these

30. Blessing in disguise

- (a) Before the 2018 event, no North Carolina team had advanced past the first round, but the falcons made that old history **fade away**.
- (b) A charity shop worker was left stunned after someone donated an **old** book containing handwritten notes from her own father 50 years after his death.
- (c) There has been a greater **recognition** lately of town hall and other municipal buildings as symbols of the localities that built them and the residents who use them.
- (d) Gold prices rose on Monday after three consecutive sessions of falls as the dollar eased amid **fresh** concerns of trade tensions between the United States and China.
- (e) none of these

Solutions

1. **(a);** The phrase “the U.S.’s Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act” means the efforts of United States to counter its adversaries by implementing Sanctions Act. Among the given statements, only the sentence (I) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (II) and (III) are irrelevant as they alter the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the correct option.
2. **(c);** The phrase “the most vicious and crude manifestation of it” means the most ferocious and rude representation of the brutality of the US police. Among the given statements, only the sentence (III) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (I) and (II) are irrelevant as they alter the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the correct option.
3. **(d);** The phrase “an entirely different ethos from the unfettered rein” means a totally different ethics and characters in comparison to the wide-open controls and powers that were given to corporate America. Among the given statements, both the sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (d) is the correct option.
4. **(a);** The phrase “snuffed out the hopes of government critics” means to cause something to end suddenly. Among the given statements, only sentence (I) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) and (III) are irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
5. **(c);** The idiom “cut the mustard” means come up to expectations; reach the required standard, while “past the tape” means to achieve something successfully. Thus, the phrase “couldn’t cut the mustard to take his team past the tape” means failing in assisting his team to secure a win.
- Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (II) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (III) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the most suitable answer choice.
6. **(a);** The phrase “to couch opportunism in idealistic garb” means to present opportunities in an ideal manner. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
7. **(c);** The phrase “hit the nail on the head” means to be accurately right about something or find the exact answer. Among the given statements, both sentences (II) and (III) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (I) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the correct option.
8. **(d);** In the context of this sentence, the phrase “countless tales of AI-induced woe” means many movies which displayed the pain and sorrow that have been caused because of AI. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (II) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (III) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (d) is the correct option.
9. **(c);** In the context of this sentence, the phrase “a voice crying in the wilderness” means to express an idea that is not accepted by others or to say something that is not acceptable by a group or society. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (II) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (III) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the correct option.

10. (c); The phrase “**to wrap your head around**” means to comprehend something that one considers challenging, confusing, or a foreign concept. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies to the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the correct option.

11. (a); The phrase “**don't burn bridges at work**” means ‘to not destroy one's path, connections, reputation, opportunities, etc., particularly intentionally.’. Thus, among all the given options only sentence (I) serves the appropriate meaning of the sentence. Other sentences stand contextually incorrect. Hence (a) is the correct option.

12. (b); The phrase “**many uncontrolled spillover effects**” means unexpected consequences or repercussions spreading in different sectors. Among the given statements, only sentences (I) expresses the precise meaning which complies to the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) and (III) are irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

13. (a); The phrase “**treading on thin ice**” is used to describe a situation of possible danger or risk, where the “ice” could break at any time and the person treading or walking on it could fall in. Among the given statements only statement (III) seem to provide the same explanation, but the statements (I) and (II) change the meaning of the sentence as they do not specify the correct meaning of the phrase whereas statement (III) describes the exact sense of the phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

14. (c); The phrase “**the myopic pursuit of GDP growth**” means ‘the short-term plans for the growth of GDP’. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies to the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (c) is the correct option.

15. (b); In the context of this sentence, the phrase “**devolve into the equivalent of house cats**” means the condition of humans will worsen into a level identical to that of a pet animal. Among the given statements, only the sentence (III) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (I) and (II) are irrelevant as they alter the meaning of the sentence. Hence (b) is the correct option.

16. (a); In the context of this sentence, the phrase “**brought to light by the nonpartisan government watchdog Common Cause, call on federal prosecutors and regulators**” means that the complaint was brought to everyone's attention by an unbiased government monitoring organization named Common Cause and the organization requested federal officials to probe into a matter related to violation of a US law . Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the correct option.

17. (b); In the context of this sentence, the phrase “**spanner in the works**” means a roadblock that prevents an activity from succeeding or to deliberately sabotage an activity. Among the given statements, only the sentence (I) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (II) and (III) are irrelevant as they alter the meaning of the sentence. Hence (b) is the correct option.

18. (a); The phrase “**set the cat among the pigeons**” means to do or say something that is likely to cause alarm, controversy, or unrest among a lot of people. Among the given statements, both sentences (I) and (III) express the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statement (II) is irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 19. (b);**The phrase “**he poked home in the first half**” means to score a goal in the first half of the game. Among the given statements, only statement (III) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (I) and (II) are irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the given sentence. Hence option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
- 20. (b);**The phrase “**coalesce into a credible pre-poll alliance**” in reference to the sentence means that the alliance between the two parties was never meant to form a reliable union before the polls as well. Among the given statements, only statement (III) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time they make sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (I) and (II) are irrelevant as it alters the meaning of the given sentence. Hence option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
- 21. (a);**The correct option is (a). The correct meaning of the idiomatic expression quid pro quo is granting undue favor to someone in return for something. Therefore, the only statement that complies with the statement in question is statement (a). All other statements are irrelevant in context to the statement provided in question.
- 22. (d);**The correct option is (d). The correct meaning of the idiomatic expression cloak and dagger is using intrigue or confusing words in order to conceal the wrongdoings. Therefore, the only statement that complies with the statement in question is statement (d). All other statements are grammatically incorrect in context to the statement provided in question.
- 23. (d);**The correct option is (d). The correct meaning of the idiomatic expression cloak of respectability is using respectable remark or title for something in order to conceal the wrongdoings. Therefore, the only statement that complies with the statement in question is statement (d). All other statements are irrelevant in context to the statement provided in question.
- 24. (a);**The correct option is (a). The correct meaning of the idiomatic expression rev up is to increase the rate of or speed of something. Therefore, the only statement that complies with the statement in question is statement (a). All other statements are irrelevant in context to the statement provided in question.
- 25. (a);**The correct option is (a). The correct meaning of the idiomatic expression tarred up with same brush is to unfairly categorize someone or something as being the *same* as another person or thing, usually in a negative manner. Therefore, the only statement that complies with the statement in question is statement (a). All other statements are irrelevant in context to the statement provided in question.
- 26. (b);**burn the candle at both ends: To overwork or exhaust oneself by doing too many things, especially both late at night and early in the morning Ransacked: go through (a place) stealing things and causing damage
- 27. (d);**A hot potato: Speak of an issue (mostly current) which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed China’s illegal control of South China sea is a current and disputed topic hence (e) fits accurately with the meaning of “a hot potato” as South China sea is a hot potato.
- 28. (d);**Back to the drawing board: When an attempt fails and it’s time to start all over The self-driving car technology by Uber failed when it couldn’t recognise a woman on road and now it is back to the drawing board to start it all over again and re-innovate the technology hence (d) fits perfectly to the meaning of back to the drawing board.
- 29. (a);**Be glad to see the back of: Be happy when a person or something leaves.
Here, a patient is talking about being happy when dialysis goes away (cured), which clearly signifies the meaning of the idiom ‘**be glad to see the back of**’
- Cowardice: lack of bravery
- 30. (c);**Blessing in disguise: Something good that isn’t recognized at first
Old townhall buildings or municipal buildings are the heritage of a city but they were not recognized earlier but now they are being recognized hence it conveys meaning of the given idiom.

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STUDY TIPS

In solving a cloze test the first thing an aspirant must do is to get the gist of the passage. Understanding the passage along with the tone of the passage helps eliminate most of the options contextually. Look for the word before blank because it mostly defines the word that will fill the blank. Therefore, the understanding of concepts like verbs, adverbs, nouns etc. and the usage of words accordingly is very necessary.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-5): Given below is a paragraph consisting of blanks. Identify the correct option among the five alternative pairs that should fill the blank against the number to make the paragraph contextually meaningful and grammatically correct.

(This pattern came in IBPS PO MAINS 2017)

The proposal to cut more than 16,500 trees in different parts of Delhi to make way for government complexes represents both (1) and hypocrisy. It is shocking that felling of such a large number of trees – many of which are decades old – was even conceived in a place like Delhi which over recent years has become a (2) gas chamber. Delhiites have to suffer poor air quality throughout the year with the intensity of air pollution increasing during the winter months. In this scenario, cutting down trees is absolutely (3).

These trees are the lungs of Delhi and getting rid of them is a crime against every resident of the city. While government might need space for its functioning and employees, solutions can be found without cutting trees through smart building design. Every tree is precious here and the government's (4) – that it will plant 10 new saplings for every tree felled simply doesn't **cut ice**. Do the authorities even have an idea how long it takes for a sapling to grow into a full tree that can generate large volumes of oxygen? This is nothing but utter (5) for the people of Delhi.

1. (a) Callousness/Insensitiveness
(b) Apathy/Indifference
(c) Kindness/Benevolence
(d) Magnanimity/Cowardice
(e) annihilation/Negligence
2. (a) veritable/indubitable
(b) large/humongous
(c) Petite/ Diminutive
(d) poisonous/venomous
(e) huge/colossal

3. (a) Unconscionable/Unethical
(b) Incumbent/Compelling
(c) Indispensable/Obligatory
(d) Irremissible/Profligate
(e) Requisite/Libertine
4. (a) assertion/pronouncement
(b) assumption/negation
(c) Idea/Interpretation
(d) take/denial
(e) suggestion/move
5. (a) Disregard/Contempt
(b) Reverence/Disdain
(c) Approbation/Insult
(d) Tribute/Scorn
(e) Deference/Deterrence

Directions (6-15): In the passage given below there are blanks which are to be filled with the options given below. Find out the appropriate pair of words in each case which can most suitably complete the sentence without altering the meaning of the statement. Both the words of the pair must fill the blank.

Our (6) search for the Holy Grail to fix the challenges of governance always leads us nowhere because the thing doesn't exist. But what we find in the process is a (7) of... well, nothing; it looks like a solution but it is in fact a problem. Good intentions, unless (8) by thoughtful deliberation and preparation, do not lead to good policy outcomes.

The move by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) towards lateral entry in government service falls in this category. It has invited applications from "talented and motivated Indian nationals (9) to contribute towards nation building" to be appointed as joint secretaries in 10 Departments/ Ministries at the Centre. One cannot question the good intentions behind the decision to make lateral entry more institutionalised than the case till now. Nor should one read too much bad faith into this.

Once we unwrap the new policy, however, what we find is a little **(10)** that can one day grow into a monster. Since the problem that the new policy seeks to fix remains **(11)**, we cannot hope for whatever improvements promised. It is also a distant cousin to the 'committed bureaucracy' bogey of the 1970s. Moreover, the lateral entry policy goes **(12)** in spirit to the governance philosophy **(13)** by the Constituent Assembly, insofar as it concerns the candidates from private sector, consultancy firms, international/ multinational organisations (MNCs).

Traditionally, the services of outside experts were **(14)** through consultative processes, a practice quite widespread with the **(15)** Planning Commission and to some extent with its new avatar, the NITI Aayog. It is not clear why the government determined that the practice was not effective.

6. (a) impulsive/cursory
(b) ceaseless/ unabated
(c) incessant/ careless
(d) assiduous/ offhand
(e) thorough /hasty
7. (a) counterfeit/ sham
(b) panacea/ retrospection
(c) fraudulent/ virtue
(d) remedy/ liability
(e) meander/ bewildered
8. (a) tempered/ modulated
(b) deliberated/ mired
(c) effectuated/ moderated
(d) alleviated/ subsided
(e) restored/ corroborated
9. (a) pleased/bequeathing
(b) rearing/ gathering
(c) obliging/ grudging
(d) willing/eager
(e) planning/gearing
10. (a) Contradiction/accord
(b) Inconsistency/conformity
(c) Remedy/ variance
(d) Improbability / anomalies
(e) Discrepancy/incongruence
11. (a) indistinct/ manifest
(b) obscure/ palpable
(c) precise/ambiguous
(d) vague/indeterminate
(e) anonymous/transparency
12. (a) contrary/ withstanding
(b) reliably/ceaseless
(c) eternal/ pervasive
(d) in tandem / alongside
(e) conversely/ counter

13. (a) affirmed/ belied
(b) proclaim/ pronouncing
(c) enunciated/ articulated
(d) availed / unwrapped
(e) disclosed/ attained

14. (a) commissioned/measured
(b) advantaged/ assisted
(c) accounted/ contracted
(d) availed/utilized
(e) appropriated/ aided

15. (a) sagacious/ shrewdly
(b) erstwhile/ former
(c) Previous/ benign
(d) nonchalant/ prudent
(e) Meticulous/ aggravating

Directions (16-20): In the following passage, certain parts of the paragraph are highlighted which suggest that the given expression may be grammatically incorrect. Choose the most appropriate expression among the four options given against each number which makes the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. If the given expression does not require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No correction required" as your answer.

It was anticipated that the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act would be replaced by an avant garde legislation **(16) degrading the eminence of the university for** the present and future problems of higher education in the country. The UGC Act had traversed a journey of over 60 years and gathered moss, baggage as well as wisdom on the way, which **(17) criticizes the quality of higher education**. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has now put out the draft Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission) Act, 2018. What are its implications for higher education in the country? **(18) Is it juvenile and inticate**, marking a departure from the past, or more of the same? The all-powerful regulator syndrome persists, creating a supra university which inhibits autonomy and innovation in the system. The default status of a good university is to be autonomous. The spirit of Clause 15 (3) of the draft Act is no different to Section 12 of the UGC Act where wide powers are given to the Commission. Research, learning outcomes and academic performance are already **(19) within the purview of universities**. The standards laid down by regulators invariably cater to the institutions which are at the bottom of the pyramid but are applied to all universities, including the best, inhibiting excellence. That is the reason why the IITs, IIMs and other good institutions **(20) are willing to be regulated by UGC**.

16. (a) competent of elevating
(b) capable of comprehensively handling
(c) for improving the quality of syllabus
(d) handling the unprecedented difficulties
(e) no correction required

17. (a) required urgent sifting and reinvention
 (b) is absolute and competent
 (c) free the good colleges from the stranglehold of the universities
 (d) could change the university system
 (e) no correction required
18. (a) Is it uncooperative and bleak
 (b) Is it promising and gloomy
 (c) Is it complicated and opposed
 (d) Is it positive and visionary
 (e) no correction required
19. (a) with the umbrella of universities
 (b) for the scope of universities
 (c) in the horizon to universities
 (d) under the notion for universities
 (e) no correction required
20. (a) protest the revoking of UGC.
 (b) pleased to be controlled by UGC
 (c) recoil at the thought of UGC control
 (d) will get rid of the bad name it had acquired over the years.
 (e) no correction required

Directions (21-25): In the passage given below there are blanks which are to be filled with the options given below. Find out the appropriate pair of words in each case which can most suitably complete the sentence without altering the meaning of the statement. Both the words of the pair must fill the blank.

This month South Africa will have a rare _____ (21) to break away from the difficult political legacy of corruption and governance failures that have _____ (22) its post-apartheid years. At a conference during December 16-20, the African National Congress will pick its candidate for party leader, and that person will go on to _____ (23) 10-year incumbent President Jacob Zuma. Whoever Mr. Zuma hands over the reins of _____ (24) to will be the favourite to become the country's next President in 2019. But he or she will also inherit a troubled political system and a nervous, _____ (25) economy.

21. (a) chance/ opportunity
 (b) recourse/ possibility
 (c) discretion/ caution
 (d) preference/ predilection
 (e) redundancy/ discharge
22. (a) praised/ commended
 (b) cursed/ detested
 (c) blighted/ ruined
 (d) devoured/ improved
 (e) desolated/ ravaged
23. (a) dispense/ allocate
 (b) temper/ drift
 (c) replace/ succeed
 (d) resolve/ reconcile
 (e) commute/ curtail

24. (a) bustle/ scuttle
 (c) eminence/ prestige
 (e) power/ control
25. (a) fuddled/ perplexed
 (c) distinct/ definite
 (e) oppressive/ harsh

Directions (26-30): In the following paragraph there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the paragraph followed by four words/phrases. One or more of those words/phrases may fit the blank appropriately. Choose the best set of alternatives among the five given below each question which fill the blank most appropriately. If all the words/phrases fill the blank, choose option (e) i.e. "All of these" as your answer.

The Indian law books are (26) _____ with all sorts of laws that seem good on paper while being completely ineffective. India would be a (27) _____ of social justice if all these impressive laws actually addressed the problems they seek to deal with. Some hasty laws even have (28) _____ consequences. The law against parliamentary defections is a good case in point. It was passed at a time when the problem of lawmakers crossing the (29) _____ through defections was a hot button issue among the (30) _____. The Rajiv Gandhi government won brownie points for introducing the law. It has not ended political wheeling-dealing—but it has killed democracy within parties.

26. (i) bulging
 (iii) reckoning
 (a) only (i)
 (c) Both (i) and (iv)
 (e) All of these
27. (i) torment
 (iii) utopia
 (a) Both (ii) and (iii)
 (c) only (iv)
 (e) All of these
28. (i) benign
 (iii) malign
 (a) Both (iii) and (iv)
 (c) only (iv)
 (e) All of these
29. (i) aisle
 (iii) avenue
 (a) Both (iii) and (iv)
 (c) only (i)
 (e) All of these
30. (i) rabble
 (iii) proletarian
 (a) Both (ii) and (iv)
 (c) only (i)
 (e) All of these
- (ii) growing
 (iv) swelling
 (b) only (iii)
 (d) Only (i), (ii) and (iv)
- (ii) paradise
 (iv) purgatory
 (b) only (ii)
 (d) Only (i), (iii) and (iv)
- (ii) congenial
 (iv) obliging
 (b) only (iii)
 (d) Only (i), (ii) and (iv)
- (ii) passage
 (iv) couloir
 (b) only (ii)
 (d) Only (i), (ii) and (iii)
- (ii) aristocratic
 (iv) elite
 (b) only (iii)
 (d) Only (i), (ii) and (iii)

Solutions

1. (a); **Callousness** is a noun which means insensibility and insensitivity towards a thing, here it is used to show the attitude of government towards environment. Here the suggestion by government to cut down so many trees to build government complexes is being criticized. Also, we can get a cue from the word hypocrisy that the blank preceding it should take a noun that should denote a negative trait of the government. Insensitiveness is another noun that can be used in place of callousness to denote the indifference of government towards the environment. All other choices fail to fit grammatically and contextually in the sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most viable choice.
2. (a); **Veritable** is an adjective which is used as an intensifier or to denote something real or actual. Here, it is used to qualify the gas chamber (noun) to denote the state of Delhi that has emerged as a gas chamber in real sense due to the presence of smog and other pollutants. **Indubitable** is an adjective which means too obvious to be doubted or unquestionable. Both **Veritable** and **Indubitable** can be used interchangeably to make the sentence contextually meaningful and grammatically correct. All other words fail to fit contextually and grammatically in the sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most viable choice.
3. (a); **Unconscionable** is an adjective which means greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation or lacking a conscience. Here in the context it is used to criticize the step of cutting down the trees considering the prevailing condition of Delhi when it is struggling with pollution and trees needs to be planted to contain the effects of pollution but instead of taking curative steps the trees are being felled in order to create space for accommodation. **Unethical** is the synonym for **Unconscionable** and can be used interchangeably to make the sentence grammatically and contextually meaningful. However, all other alternatives fail to fit contextually in the sentence.
Incumbent means obligatory or binding, **Profligate** and **libertine** mean immoral. **Requisite** means something that is essential or important.
Hence, option (a) is the most viable choice.
4. (a); **Assertion** is a noun which is used for declaration or positive statement and **Pronouncement** is a noun which means a declaration or a statement and hence both assertion and pronouncement can be used interchangeably to make the sentence grammatically and contextually meaningful. All

other choices fail to fit contextually and grammatically in the sentence. Here in the context it is used to state the government's declaration or statement that for every tree felled 10 new saplings will be planted. All other choices fail to fit contextually and grammatically in the sentence.

Assumption means hypothesis or supposition.

Negation means a negative statement or a statement that is a refusal or denial of some other statement

Interpretation means make sense of something.

Denial means the act of refusing to comply.

Move means the act of deciding to do something.

5. (a); **Disregard** and **Contempt** are the words that fit grammatically and contextually in the sentence. **Disregard** means showing disrespect and **contempt** means the disdain or disrespect. Both these words can be used interchangeably to make the sentence grammatically as well as contextually fit. All other choices fail to fit in the context of the sentence.
Reverence means deep respect.
Disdain means derision or disrespect.
Scorn means to show contempt
Deference means respect.
Approbation means approval or praise.
Deterrence means the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
Hence, option(a) is the most viable choice.

6. (b); Option (b) is the correct choice for the given question.
We need an adjective because the blank is given before the word search. **Ceaseless** and **unabated** both are adjective and have similar meaning. The need for these words is attributed to the presence of "Holy grail" in the sentence which means something that is extremely difficult to find or get for which we need a "thorough and continuous search".
Ceaseless means constant and unending.
Unabated means without any reduction in intensity or strength.

7. (a); Option (a) is the correct choice for the given question.
Counterfeit means a fraudulent imitation of something. **Counterfeit** and **sham** are similar in meaning and both these words fit here appropriately which can be suggested because of the meaning of the line afterwards which conveys that all we really get for our ceaseless search is a problem and not a solution.
Other options are irrelevant to the context of the passage.

8. (a); Tempered and modulated fits in the blank most appropriately.

Tempered here means modified by addition of or mixture with other qualities, ingredients, etc.

Modulated means exert a modifying or controlling influence on.

They both can be fit here and make a sense that good intentions without the addition or controlling influence of thoughtful deliberation and preparation do not give a desired result.

9. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice as both the words fit in the blank appropriately.

Willing means ready, eager, or prepared to do something.

Eager means strongly wanting to do or have something.

Obliging means willing to do a service or kindness; helpful.

10. (e); Option (e) is the correct choice.

Incongruence means not suitable or not fitting well with something else.

Discrepancy means an illogical or surprising lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.

These two words are trying to suggest that the policy is not perfect and there are certain issues which needs to be addressed otherwise they may create some bigger problems.

Accord means give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition).

Anomalies means something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.

11. (d); Vague and indeterminate are the correct choice for the given blank.

Vague means not exactly known, established, or defined.

Indeterminate means not exactly known, established, or defined.

Manifest means clear or obvious to the eye or mind.

Palpable means (of a feeling or atmosphere) so intense as to seem almost tangible.

12. (e); Conversely and counter are the correct choice for the given question.

Conversely means introducing a statement or idea which reverses one that has just been made or referred to.

Counter means in the opposite direction or in opposition to.

The usage of these words is justified because author is presenting an argument on how the lateral entry does not work in tandem with the constituent assembly's philosophy and the reason is also given in the later lines.

13. (c); Option (c) is the correct choice for the given question.

Enunciated means express (a proposition, theory, etc.) in clear or definite terms.

Articulated means express (an idea or feeling) fluently and coherently.

Availed means use or take advantage of (an opportunity or available resource).

Proclaim means announce officially or publicly.

Belied means (of an appearance) fail to give a true impression of (something).

14. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice.

Availed means use or take advantage of (an opportunity or available resource).

Availed and **utilized** are correct words as they conveyed that the services were used through the given process.

15. (b); Option (b) is the correct choice because we are talking a traditional practice of the past and therefore former and erstwhile (former) fits the blank appropriately as they convey the appropriate meaning to the sentence.

Nonchalant means (of a person or manner) feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; not displaying anxiety, interest, or enthusiasm.

Prudent means acting with or showing care and thought for the future.

Sagacious means having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; wise or shrewd.

16. (b); The paragraph is describing about the proposition to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, with a more suitable act that should be capable of resolving all the difficulties of higher education in the country. Therefore, the most suitable phrase that should replace the incorrect phrase is "capable of comprehensively handling", since it is contextually meaningful and fits in the grammatical syntax of the sentence. The hint for the correct phrase can also be drawn from the latter part of the sentence [...the present and future problems]. Moreover, as the paragraph has mentioned about the replacement of the act, it becomes very logical that a more capable legislation will be implemented that will have the stature to solve the problems of higher education. Since, all the other options are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningless, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

17. (a); The paragraph is describing about the anticipation of the replacement of UGC Act for better quality of higher education system. The given phrase is incorrect since the sentence has mentioned the positive qualities of the Act, which makes the phrase contextually incorrect in reference to the sentence. Furthermore, it is to be noted that since in the previous sentence it has been mentioned about the replacement of the Act, while in the next sentence it has been mentioned

about the achieved qualities of the education system through UGC Act. Thus, the most appropriate phrase to replace the given incorrect phrase is "required urgent sifting and reinvention" which means examining and reinventing thoroughly so as to isolate the important qualities of the Act. However, all the other options are either grammatically incorrect or contextually irrelevant. Option (b) may also sound correct but observing that the paragraph has mentioned about the replacement of the Act, it cannot be complete and competent. Thus, the rationale makes the phrase of option (b) incorrect. Hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.

18. (d); The most appropriate phrase to replace the incorrect highlighted phrase is "Is it positive and visionary". It is to be noted that along with this sentence, previous sentence is also questioning about the fidelity of the revocation of the UGC Act. Thus, with reference to the theme of the paragraph, "IS it positive and visionary" fits in the most precise manner. Moreover, the latter part of the sentence also drops a clue, as it has described about the moving of the education system from the past [problematic system]. Therefore, the initial part of the sentence, must illustrate the positive outcome of the repeal. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

19. (e); The given highlighted phrase is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful and does not require any replacement. All the options provided to replace the phrase contain grammatical errors and fail to fit in the sentence. Hence, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.

20. (c); The phrase highlighted "are willing to be regulated by UGC" should be replaced with "recoil at the thought of UGC control" to make the sentence of the paragraph contextually relevant with the theme of the paragraph. It is to be noted that in the previous sentence, it has been mentioned that how the standards laid by the government will be barriers for the good institutions to perform excellently. Therefore, this stands as the reason for the good institutions to hesitate in fear to fall under the control of UGC. All the other options are grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningless. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.

21. (a); Option (a) is the correct choice.

22. (c); 'blighted, ruined' best suits the purpose.
Blighted means spoil or harm.

23. (c); 'replace/ succeed' is the correct choice.

24. (e); 'power/ control' is the correct choice.

25. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice.

26. (c); The paragraph is describing about the various laws introduced for effective jurisdiction, however, sometimes due to poor implementation they lead to more chaos. Thus, to adhere the theme of the paragraph the most suitable word to fill the blank is "bulging" or "swelling". "bulging" and "swelling" are verbs describing the state of law books which means 'be full of and distended with'. However, other words fail to provide the contextual meaning to the paragraph, therefore, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

27. (a); The paragraph has mentioned about a hypothetical situation where all the laws as formulated could resolve the issues of the society. Such a perfect situation may give an impression of a paradise for the country. Therefore, the most suitable word to fill the blank is either "paradise" or "utopia". 'Utopia' means an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

Torment means severe physical or mental suffering.

Purgatory means mental anguish or suffering.

28. (b); The paragraph is describing about the various laws introduced for effective jurisdiction, however, sometimes due to poor implementation they lead to more chaos. Here, the sentence has mentioned about the hasty formulation of few laws, since they are hasty the consequences can't have affirmative outcomes. Therefore, the most appropriate word to fill the blank should be "malign". 'Malign' is an adjective which means 'evil in nature or effect'. All the other words, fail to comply with the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (b) is the most accurate answer choice.

29. (c); The most appropriate word to fill the blank is "aisle". "Cross the aisle" is an idiom which means 'To vote, unite, or otherwise co-operate with members of another political party in order to achieve governmental or political action'. All the other words do not provide the suitable context to the paragraph. Therefore, option (c) is the most precise answer choice.

30. (a); The most appropriate word that will fill the blank adhering to the theme of the paragraph is either "elite" or "aristocratic" since the paragraph is mentioning about the lawmakers and politicians who are the exclusive class of the society. "Aristocratic" means 'a group regarded as privileged or superior in a particular sphere'. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

Rabble means ordinary people, especially when regarded as socially inferior or uncouth.

Proletarian means relating to the proletariat.



STUDY TIPS

In solving a cloze test the first thing an aspirant must do is to get the gist of the passage. Understanding the passage along with the tone of the passage helps eliminate most of the options contextually. Look for the word before blank because it mostly defines the word that will fill the blank. Therefore, the understanding of concepts like verbs, adverbs, nouns etc. and the usage of words accordingly is very necessary.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1-5): In the following passage, certain parts of the paragraph are omitted. Choose the most appropriate expression among the five options given against each number which makes the sentence of the paragraph grammatically correct and contextually meaningful.

A Parliamentary panel has recommended the earmarking of a defined portion of proceeds from the divestment of State-owned enterprises for _____ (1) _____ proposals of sick public-sector undertakings (PSUs) that have the potential to turn around.

"In this manner, the government can extend a hand-holding support to the select _____ (2) _____ in [the] future," the panel said in a report.

The government had set a target of raising 80,000 crores in 2018-19 by selling stakes in the State-owned firms, with strategic divestment of 24 CPSEs (central public-sector undertakings) on the cards and privatisation of Air India on track.

Besides, NITI Aayog is preparing another list of sick PSUs that can be privatised, its chief executive officer Amitabh Kant said last month. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had asked the think-tank to look into the _____ (3) _____.

The Aayog had already recommended strategic divestment of 40 sick public-sector undertakings.

In its report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry said it was of the firm opinion that while making a decision to disinvest PSUs, especially those that are profit-making, _____ (4) _____ to the jobs supported by them, the track record of their contribution to the national economy, their capex (capital expenditure) creation potential and also their role in balancing the social/regional fabric.

The committee observed that timely approval of revival plans of CPSEs with accurate cost estimates, availability of funds with the government and the _____ (5) _____ are crucial factors.

1. (a) renovation, decoration and trimming
(b) finalization, closer and annihilation,
(c) restructuring, renovation and decoration
(d) optimization, management and conventionalisation
(e) funding revival, restructuring and modernisation
2. (a) sick PSUs that have the potential to sell their assets, recover losses and then close their operations
(b) sick PSUs that can never turn around
(c) sick PSUs that have the potential to turn around and sustain themselves
(d) sick PSUs that have the potential to cease to exist
(e) sick PSUs that cannot face competition from their private sector counterparts
3. (a) viability of sick State-run companies
(b) lay off criteria in these PSUs
(c) selection process in these sick State-run companies
(d) market capitalisation of these PSUs
(e) joblessness as it is India's most underestimated yet lethal problem
4. (a) the government must not accord due consideration
(b) the government must keep in mind the requirement of Basel III norms which will be in place in 2019
(c) the government should focus on the needs of those who provide jobs
(d) the government must accord due consideration
(e) the government should listen carefully the proposals of Bank Boards Bureau.
5. (a) delayed disposal of such funds
(b) timely registration of these PSUs in Share market
(c) timely completion of projects by these PSUs
(d) merger of these CPSEs
(e) timely disposal of such funds

Directions (6-10): In the following passage, certain parts of the paragraph are highlighted which suggest that the given expression may be grammatically or contextually incorrect. Choose the most appropriate expression among the four options given against each number which makes the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. If the given expression does not require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No replacement required" as your answer.

India is the largest user of groundwater in the world. Every year, Indian farmers pump 250 cubic-km of groundwater—**(6) more to US and China together**—to irrigate nearly 63 million hectares (mha) of land. India also has the largest number of irrigation wells in the world. The 5th Minor Irrigation Census (MI Census) counted 20.52 million wells and tube wells in 2013-14—one for every seven operational holdings. **(7) The peeking for groundwater boom** during 1970s to 1990s, Indian farmers were digging nearly half a million wells every year, mostly dug wells and shallow tube wells (STWs). The pace has now slowed down to 0.1 million new wells per year, but almost all of them are deep tube wells, or DTWs (more than 70 metres).‘

Thirty years ago, there were only 0.1 million DTWs in India; today, there are more than 2.6 million. Since the 4th MI Census in 2006-07, 0.4 million dug wells have gone into disuse and the number of STWs has barely changed, but **(8) the number of DTWs has nearly doubled**. Rather than digging new dug wells and STWs, **(9) farmer are deepening the newer ones** to chase the receding water table. Even in areas where the water table is not very deep, **(10) it is switching from centrifugal to submersible pumps**. The 5th MI Census recorded more submersible pumps than centrifugal pumps.

6. (a) lowered as compared to US and China combined
(b) more than the US and China combined
(c) including US and China combined
(d) however higher than the US and China combined
(e) no replacement required
7. (a) Peeking in the groundwater
(b) The highest level of groundwater
(c) The groundwater declines
(d) At the peak of groundwater boom
(e) no replacement required
8. (a) the number of STWs and DTWs have crossed
(b) the number of STWs have declined
(c) though the number of STWs has increased even more
(d) DTWs have grown more in number than the dug wells
(e) no replacement required

9. (a) farmers are deepening the existing ones
(b) farmers are constructing new ones
(c) farmers are covering the existing ones
(d) farmers are replenishing the water levels
(e) no replacement required
10. (a) they will choose submersible over centrifugal pumps
(b) it had chosen centrifugal to submersible pumps
(c) they are switching from centrifugal to submersible pumps
(d) it is preferring centrifugal to submersible pumps
(e) no replacement required

Directions (11-15): In the following passage against each number four words are suggested in bold which may or may not fit into the sentence contextually. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. Find out the most appropriate alternative reflecting the word which doesn't fit into the blank appropriately and thus fail to give a contextual meaning to the paragraph. If no such error is there mark (e) i.e. "all are correct" as your answer choice.

(This pattern came in IPPB mains paper)

India's shipping industry is at a **(11) crossroads**. The country is aiming to make big **strides** in the maritime sector and investing billions of dollars to **modernise** and set up new ports as well as **related** infrastructure. But its domestic shipping industry is finding it tough to compete with foreign shipping lines in carrying India specific export-import trade due to cost **(12) disadvantages** and an **uneven** playing field. Indian shipowners have asked the Centre to **consider** having a national fleet.

This is in line with other major maritime powers supporting their own shipping firms, for **adjusting** control and securing the transportation of critical cargo. A national fleet policy **(13) initiates** that ships engaged in trade must be flagged, or registered, in India **irrespective** of whether they are owned by Indian or foreign shipping lines. Though India has allowed 100% FDI in shipping since 2001, foreign lines are **yet** to flag in India.

Insisting that India must have a national fleet, Anil Devli, CEO, Indian National Shipowner's Association (INSA), asked, "If foreign shipping lines control over 90% of India's cargo, why should they not be asked to flag some of their vessels in India and pay taxes like us."

Foreign lines register their vessels in favourable tax regimes such as Panama and at their local **(14) jurisdictions**.

Japan, China, the U.S., Malaysia, Indonesia and European nations practice absolute **cabotage** to protect their shipping lines. The EU practices cabotage even in ship recycling. China **ensures** that 600 million tonnes of coastal cargo is carried by Chinese vessels only. Cabotage **means** to a legal restriction that limits the transportation of goods and people within the country by that country's own transport services.

Japan ensures that all its imports are carried on by vessels owned, built and financed by **(15) entities** registered in the country. The Donald Trump **system** in the U.S. has **proposed** at least 30% of gas exports should be **executed** by their national carriers.

- 11.** (a) crossroads (b) strides
(c) modernize (d) related
(e) all are correct
- 12.** (a) disadvantages (b) uneven
(c) consider (d) adjusting
(e) all are correct
- 13.** (a) initiates (b) irrespective
(c) yet (d) Insisting
(e) all are correct
- 14.** (a) jurisdictions (b) cabotage
(c) ensures (d) means
(e) all are correct
- 15.** (a) entities (b) system
(c) proposed (d) executed
(e) all are correct

Directions (16-20): In the following paragraph, there is a set of four highlighted words against each number indicated in bold in the beginning of the sentences. One of the given words in each set may or may not fit into the statement. Choose the word which is not suitable in the context of the paragraph. If all the four words are correct and feasible, choose (e) i.e. "No error" as your answer.

(16) The Russian doping **scandal** continues **by** cast a long **shadow** over international sport as the 2018 Winter Olympics **begin** in PyeongChang, South Korea, on February 9. **(17)** In December, the International Olympic Committee **banned** Russia from **winning** in the Games following **investigation** into an alleged state-sponsored **doping** programme at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. **(18)** The **dissension** to ban Russia came after the IOC's Disciplinary Commission, **headed** by former president of the Swiss Confederation Samuel Schmid, **confirmed** "systemic **manipulation** of the anti-doping rules and system in Russia". **(19)** The IOC had stated, **along with**, that clean Russian athletes would be allowed to compete as **neutrals** and last month invited 169 of them — each to be **known** as Olympic Athlete from Russia (OAR) — to **participate** in the PyeongChang Games. **(20)** The **announcement** did not go down well **outside** Russia, even though the IOC declared that "more than 80%" of those **athletes** had not competed in Sochi and had been carefully **vetted**.

- 16.** (a) scandal (b) by (c) shadow
(d) begin (e) no error
- 17.** (a) banned (b) wining (c) investigation
(d) doping (e) no error

- 18.** (a) dissension (b) headed
(c) confirmed (d) manipulation
(e) no error

- 19.** (a) along with (b) neutrals
(c) known (d) participate
(e) no error

- 20.** (a) announcement (b) outside
(c) athletes (d) vetted
(e) no error

Directions (21- 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 are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

The ...**(21)**... of India as an economic superpower is not reflected in the ...**(22)**... of life enjoyed by its 1.2 billion citizens according to the Human Development Index which ...**(23)**... India very low among 182 countries.

In our performance oriented world, measurement issues have taken on ...**(24)**... importance as what we measure affects what we do. In fact, the French President has established an international commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress owing to his ...**(25)**... and that of others with the current state of statistical information about the economy and society.

- 21.** (a) pursuit (b) perception
(c) conversion (d) title
(e) tribute

- 22.** (a) quality (b) spirit
(c) span (d) joy
(e) loss

- 23.** (a) scored (b) qualified
(c) regard (d) ranked
(e) counted

- 24.** (a) great (b) unduly
(c) trivial (d) considerably
(e) negligible

- 25.** (a) confidence (b) belief
(c) dissatisfaction (d) compliance
(e) obedience

Directions (26-30): In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage followed by four words/phrases. One or more of those words/phrases may fit the blank appropriately. Choose the best set of alternatives among the five given below each question which fill the blanks most appropriately. If all of the words/phrases fill the blanks, choose option (e) i.e. "All of these" as your answer.

It is that time of the academic year when most (26) _____ prepare to begin teaching a new (27) _____ of perceptive, young minds joining university campuses. As an instructor of economics, it is (28) _____ to welcome students, introduce them to higher possibilities of learning, and teach foundational concepts using (29) _____ cases based on real-world scenarios.

Economics in the larger field of social sciences, and over the last century or so, has (30) _____ a vital space in understanding different aspects of human behaviour.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 26. (A) instructors | (B) arbiters |
| (C) educators | (D) conciliators |
| (a) Only (D) | (b) Both (A) and (C) |
| (c) Only (C) | (d) Both (A) and (D) |
| (e) All of these | |
| 27. (A) adversary | (B) foe |
| (C) cohort | (D) associate |
| (a) Only (D) | (b) Both (A) and (C) |
| (c) Only (C) | (d) Both (A) and (D) |
| (e) All of these | |
| 28. (A) exhausting | (B) tiring |
| (C) absorbing | (D) fascinating |
| (a) Both (C) and (D) | (b) Both (A) and (C) |
| (c) Only (C) | (d) Both (A) and (D) |
| (e) All of these | |
| 29. (A) illustrative | (B) interpretative |
| (C) instructive | (D) elucidative |
| (a) Both (C) and (D) | (b) Both (A) and (C) |
| (c) Only (C) | (d) Both (A) and (D) |
| (e) All of these | |
| 30. (A) occupied | (B) vacated |
| (C) dropped | (D) acquired |
| (a) Only (D) | (b) Both (A) and (C) |
| (c) Only (C) | (d) Both (A) and (D) |
| (e) All of these | |

Directions (31-40): Read the following passage and answer the questions following it. Several alphabets are given to help u assist in answering those questions.

Guaranteed minimum income is a powerful idea that has already made some (A) in various countries. Some European countries, for instance, guarantee a minimum income to their citizens. This requires extensive data collection as well as an effective cadre of welfare officers and social workers tasked with enquiring into the circumstances of people who claim to need income support.

(B) It had been nice if in case India could achieve something similar, but the obstacles are daunting. Starting with the financial burden, a recent brief of the World

Inequality Lab by Nitin Bharti and Lucas Chancel presents some useful figures. (C) The (1) estimate essentially (2) authors the “minimum-income gap”, that is, the gap (3) between minimum income and actual income (4) summed over all households with actual income below the minimum. With a minimum income of Rs 72,000 per year, the gap turns out to be 1.3 per cent of GDP. This information is helpful, but it does not tell us much about (D) _____ . All it says is that if this could be done through perfectly targeted and costless top-up transfers, it would cost 1.3 per cent of GDP.

In an earlier avatar, the Congress party’s minimum income guarantee (MIG) (E) was based on this sort of top-up model. The idea was that the government would simply fill the gap — if any — between minimum income and actual income, household-wise. This is impractical, if only because it requires household-specific income data that are (F) deliberately impossible to collect, at least for now. (G) One possible response is that the basis for calculation of the gap should not be actual income but some sort of “imputed income” — an estimate of what a household is expected to earn based on observable characteristics such as education and land ownership. (H) Imputed-income (1) errors, however, are (2) bound to lack (3) precision, leading to large inclusion and exclusion (4) estimates.

For these or other reasons, the top-up formula was dropped and NYAY was announced: Uniform cash transfers of Rs 72,000 per year, equivalent to Rs 6,000 per month, to the poorest 20 per cent households — about 50 crore households based on 2011 census data. Initially, an (I) _____ was created that NYAY “guaranteed” Rs 12,000 per month, because most households earn at least Rs 6,000 on their own, but this is incorrect. In fact, Bharti and Chancel estimate that 33 per cent of households earned less than Rs 6,000 per month in 2011-12, and the corresponding proportion today may not be much lower. In short, NYAY is a targeted cash-transfer scheme that guarantees Rs 6,000 per month to the recipients — nothing more, nothing less. (J) It can also be thought of as a massive non-contributory pension scheme.

31. Which of the following word given in the options should come at the place marked as (A) in the above passage to make it grammatically correct and meaningful? Also, the word should fill in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.

- They made little _____ in the two main sectors of women's employment, domestic service and textiles.
 - The ant was making little _____ carrying a crumb that was about five times his size.
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (a) hindrance | (b) inclination |
| (c) headway | (d) forward |
| (e) advanced | |

and the Plasmodium it injects into the bloodstream among the deadliest weapons in its arsenal. (C) (1) **Perhaps** this can be seen most (2) **died** at the Battle of Guadalcanal in the South Pacific during World War II where, while 1,700 Americans (3) **starkly** from injuries (4) **inflicted** by the Japanese, over 4-5,000 died due to malaria. Amidst all these stories of malaria and yellow fever, there is a tendency to think about these diseases as stand-alone phenomena, affecting the here-and-now. What is often forgotten is the mosquito's extraordinary influence on how societies have evolved, (D). That historians have occasionally tipped their hats to the prowess of disease in shaping human history is not surprising. Thucydides in The History of the Peloponnesian War is one of the earliest examples, when he writes about the impact of the 'plague' of Athens in 430 B.C.E — was it bubonic plague, typhoid, typhus fever, or Ebola; we can't be sure — that (E).....the city-state during its war against Sparta. The Romans, ever so (F) **relentlessly** colourful in documenting their travails, even had names for the great waves of disease that ravaged their cities — the Antonine Plague, the Plague of Cyprian, the Plague of Justinian. In ancient India, the great physician-scholar Sushruta wrote about 'vishama jwara' (intermittent fevers), which subsequent generations of commentators claimed were caused by 'bhutabhisanga' (spectral bodies); the latter were diagnosed as poisonous insects by even later commentators such as Chakrapani. Modern students of Ayurveda often interpret this as among the earliest evidence of malarial fevers in India.....(G)..... A few rare historians such J.R. McNeill have, however, upended conventional wisdom when they frame historical events as a consequence of biological factors. Using a concept he calls "differential resistance" — those who have earned immunity thanks to malarial or yellow fever attacks as a child versus those who succumb to it on first exposure — McNeill's narrative of the colonisation of Central America relies on mosquitoes as its protagonists. The Spanish Empire of the 17th and 18th centuries, which raised armies from native-born South Americans defended its territories against the English, whose soldiers came from the home country and succumbed due to lack of immunity. (H) More (1) **provocatively**, in Charles Mann's fantastic survey of the post-Columbus world, titled 1493, he builds a (2) **inherited** case that the institution of transatlantic slavery of Africans from the 17th century onwards over-flourished because the Africans had (3) **careful** immunity to Plasmodium vivax because of their lack of a (4) **protein** called Duffy antigen. In contrast, white servants from Europe (cheaper to import than African slaves) fell systematically ill and succumbed in the Americas. (I) Malaria in modern India is an arms race story, between the State's schemes to annihilate mosquitoes and newer generations of mosquito

resistance. As of 1947, there were an estimated 7.5 crore malarial cases among a population of 33 crore. In the decades that followed independence — from the 1950s and 1960s — cases declined dramatically, with 1964 figures estimated at 1,00,000. This was largely achieved by “indoor residual spraying” of the chemical DDT under the (1)..... of the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP).

45. Which of the following words given in the options should come at the place marked as 'E' in the above paragraph to make it grammatically and contextually meaningful and correct. Also, the word should fill the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful?

(i) Half the population of this planet had been _____ by famine and war.

(ii) The city would be completely dead before morning, _____ within a day.

(a) decimated (b) relegated
(c) researched (d) published
(e) mitigated

46. A word is given in bold in F. Choose the word which should replace the word given in bold to make the sentence correct and meaningful. If no change is required, choose option (e) as your answer.

(a) rigorously (b) Stubbornly
(c) scrupulously (d) Aloofly
(e) None correction required

47. Two sentences are given in italics on both sides of G. Which of the following statements can come in between the two sentences in place of G so as to maintain the continuity of the paragraph?

(a) No different from the unseen strings of politics of that time that make marionettes of us.
(b) We need new solutions to get the malaria response back on track, and this vaccine gives us a promising tool to get there

(c) The pilot programme is designed to generate evidence and experience to inform WHO policy recommendations on the broader use of the RTS,S malaria vaccine.
(d) There was no aspect of life in the country that was not affected by malaria.
(e) Yet, for most historical narratives, diseases and disease vectors (like mosquitos) have rarely made for exciting protagonists or even causal agents.

48. The sentence given in H has four words given in bold. Amongst given bolded words, which of the followings must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful.

(a) 2-4 (b) 2-3
(c) 1-4 (d) 3-4
(e) 1-3

49. In the passage given, a sentence I is given in Italics. There may or may not be an error in one part of the sentence. Choose the part which has an error in it as your answer.

(a) Malaria in modern India is an arms
(b) race story, between the State's schemes
(c) to annihilate mosquitoes and newer
(d) generations of mosquito resistance.
(e) no error

50. Which of the following words should fill the blank given in J to make it contextually correct and meaningful?

(a) change (b) conduct
(c) benevolence (d) auspices
(e) _____

Solutions

1. **(e);** Part of the proceeds from the funds received from the disinvestment of PSUs should be used for funding revival, restructuring and modernization. The PSUs which are already sick and need government support, 'decoration' or 'renovation' of their premises from these critical funds does not make any sense hence option (a) and option (c) cannot be the answer.

It is clear from this article that it focuses on restructuring and revival of PSUs so 'annihilation or closer' doesn't fit in the context hence option (b) cannot be our answer.

Conventionalisation: the act of conventionalizing (conventional methods of PSUs might be wrong may be that's why they are in such a precarious state so going back to conventional methods is not a solution therefore option (d) cannot be our answer.

2. **(c);** The main theme of the passage is about government support needed for PSUs which have the potential to turn around and which contribute to the economy hence (c) is the answer choice.

3. **(a);** NITI Aayog should look into the viability, capability and sustainability of sick PSUs, to see if they can achieve growth in future hence option (a) is the answer choice.

4. **(d);** The government must accord due consideration to the capability and sustainability of PSUs, their contribution to the economy, jobs provided by them etc. to see if they can achieve growth in future hence option (d) is the answer choice.

Option (b) and option (d) cannot be our answer as this passage is not only about Public-Sector Banks instead all of PSUs.

5. (e); timely disposal of funds is very necessary for the turnaround of sick PSUs as delay in disposal of such funds can alter their revival plan negatively. Registration in share market does not guarantee success hence option (b) cannot be our answer. Merger of CPSEs does not guarantee success hence option (d) cannot be our answer. Timely completion of projects by PSUs does not guarantee besides there are many different PSUs operating in different sectors performing different types of work and not all of them have to necessarily work on a project hence option (c) cannot be our answer. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
6. (b); The paragraph is describing about the increase in the usage of groundwater in India for irrigation. Moreover, it has also mentioned the statistics of comparison between Dug wells and shallow tube wells. The given phrase in bold is grammatically incorrect, as while comparing the quantity of two objects we use "more than" rather than "more to". It is further to be noted that the first sentence of the paragraph has stated that India is the largest user of groundwater. Therefore, drawing hints from the first sentence, option (a) and (c) can be eliminated as they are contextually incorrect. Moreover, option (d) stands incorrect as the conjunction 'however' is used to join two contrasting statements. However, here both the clauses support the same context of the sentence. Therefore, to make the sentence of the paragraph correct, replace 'more to US and China together' by 'more than the US and China combined'. Hence, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
7. (d); The paragraph is describing about the increase in the usage of groundwater in India for irrigation. Moreover, it has also mentioned the statistics of comparison between Dug wells and shallow tube wells. The given phrase in bold of the sentence is grammatically incorrect and contextually meaningless. It is to be noted that the verb "peeking" means 'protrude slightly so as to be just visible'; while the verb required here is "peaking" which means 'reach a highest point, either of a specified value or at a specified time'. This also eliminates option (a). Option (b) also stands incorrect as the sentence is describing a particular phase of time, Also, it lacks the preposition 'at' to make it grammatically correct. Moreover, from the latter part of the paragraph [The pace has now slowed down] we can receive a hint that at certain period of past, the

groundwater must be at peak as not it has slowed down, which makes option (c) incorrect. Therefore, by replacing the phrase "The peeking for groundwater boom" by "At the peak of groundwater boom" the sentence of the paragraph becomes grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.

8. (e); Here, the sentence of the paragraph has made a comparison between the usage of DTWs and STWs. It has clearly mentioned that the number of STWs has hardly changed. Taking a clue from this statement option (a), (b) and (c) can be eliminated. Moreover, the comparison is made between STWs and DTWs therefore, with this rationale, option (d) can be eliminated. Hence, the given phrase in bold is correct and does not require any corrections or replacements. Thereby, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.
9. (a); The given sentence of the paragraph is describing about the depleting groundwater levels due to excessive digging of dug wells and STWs. The given phrase in bold stands incorrect as to comply with the plural verb "are", the subject [farmer] should also be in its plural form [farmers]. In addition to, it has been mentioned that the farmers are not digging new dug wells, thus the phrase in bold makes a contextual error since the farmers are not digging new dug wells so how can they deepen them further. However, it is to be noted that the usage of the phrase "rather than" indicates a comparison between two alternatives. 'Rather than' is used to give more importance to one thing when two alternatives or preferences are being compared. Therefore, with this logic option (b) and (c) can be eliminated. This can be understood from the phrase "to chase the receding water table". Hence, option (d) can also be eliminated. Since option (a) fits best to make the paragraph comprehensive and grammatically correct it becomes the most viable answer choice.
10. (c); The given phrase in bold of the sentence contains grammatical error. To make the phrase correct replace "it is" with "they are" since the subject of the sentence is "farmers". Option (b) and (d) are contextually incorrect as the next sentence has described about that the census has recorded more submersible pumps than centrifugal pumps. This implies that farmers are preferring submersible pumps to centrifugal pumps. Option (a) can be eliminated as the action of switching

from centrifugal to submersible pumps is an ongoing activity, therefore the sentence should be in present continuous tense rather than future tense. Since, option (c) fits best in the given context of the paragraph, it becomes the most suitable answer choice.

11. (e);all are correct

12. (d);Replace 'adjusting' with 'retaining'

Foreign countries are not supporting their shipping firms for 'adjusting' control but they are doing so for 'retaining' control. It is clear from the passage that they want to retain control on their shipping industry.

Adjusting: adapt or become used to a new situation

13. (a);Replace 'initiates' with 'mandates'

initiates: cause (a process or action) to begin
Initiates means starting something new, which does not fit in the context of the sentence. National fleet policy is already there so initiates cannot be used here. The policy mandates or ask shipping companies to register in India therefore 'mandates' or any other word similar in meaning to mandates will replace 'initiates'.

14. (d);replace 'means' with 'refers'. Use of 'to' after 'means' is wrong but 'to' is used after 'refers' therefore 'means' will be replaced by 'refers'.

15. (b);Replace 'system' with 'administration'. Use of system after Donald Trump's name is not right as system does not belong to one man but government and administration can belong to one man. Example: Donald Trump administration, Narendra Modi government

In India we say, 'Narendra Modi government' while in USA they say, 'Donald Trump administration' therefore 'administration' will replace 'system'.

16. (b);Option (b) is the correct choice. Except for option (b) "by" all the words completely fit into the paragraph to make it grammatically and meaningfully correct. It is to be noted that the usage of preposition "by" is incorrect. An infinitive will almost always begin with "to" followed by the simple form of the verb, like this: To + Verb = Infinitive. Therefore, before the base form of the verb "cast" "to" should be added to make the sentence grammatically correct.

17. (b);Option (b) is the correct choice. All the words except for "winning" provides a coherent meaning to the sentence. Here, the paragraph is describing

about the controversy of doping by Russian players in the Olympics. Therefore, the correct word required here is "competing" or "participating" as the International Olympic Committee banned the country from competing in the games. Moreover, in the later part of the paragraph it is mentioned that the "clean Russian athletes would be allowed to compete as neutrals". This statement indicates that previously the athletes were banned to compete and this restriction was later removed. This rationale helps to identify option (b) as the error in the given paragraph.

18. (a);Option (a) is the correct choice. "dissension" is a noun which means disagreement that leads to discord. However, the paragraph is stating about the verdict that the Russian athletes would no longer be allowed to compete in 2018 winter Olympics. Therefore, the correct word required has to "decision" or something similar in meaning. All the other words help to make the sentence grammatically and meaningfully correct. "manipulation" is a noun which means the action of manipulating something in a skillful manner.

19. (a);Option (a) is the correct choice as here, the usage of phrasal conjunction "along with" is incorrect. "along with" is used to give the reference of a company with or at the same time as; accompanying; together with. Thus, it doesn't signify the meaning of the sentence correctly. The correct conjunction to be used here is "however". "However" can be used to introduce a statement that contrasts with or seems to contradict something that has been said previously or in whatever way; regardless of how.

Here it is mentioned to provide the meaning of "regardless of how". All the other words are apt in the context of the paragraph. "neutrals" means an impartial or unbiased state or person. Hence, the correct option which has the error is option (a).

20. (e);Option (e) is the correct choice. The sentence is contextually and grammatically correct. All the given words are making the paragraph logical and comprehensible. "vetted" is a verb which means to make a careful and critical examination of (something).

21. (b);'Perception' is 'the way something is viewed as'.

22. (a);

- 23. (d);**
- 24. (a);** Out of these adjectives, great, trivial and negligible, the last two have negative meanings which is not desirable here. Hence, option (a).
- 25. (c);** Here, a negative meaning work is required.
- 26. (b);** The paragraph is describing about the methods of teaching economics to the students so that they can understand different aspects of human behavior. Therefore, the most suitable word that will fill the blank to make the paragraph coherent is "educators" or "instructors". Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
 Arbiters means a person who settles a dispute or has ultimate authority in a matter.
 Conciliators means a person who acts as a mediator between two disputing people or groups.
- 27. (c);** The most suitable word that will fill the blank to make the paragraph coherent is "cohort" which is a noun and it means a group of people with a shared characteristic. However, all the other words fail to appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (c) is the most feasible answer choice.
- 28. (a);** The most suitable word that will fill the blank to make the paragraph coherent is "fascinating" or "absorbing". However, all the other words fail to appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (a) is the most feasible answer choice.
 Absorbing means intensely interesting; engrossing.
 Tiring means causing one to need rest or sleep; fatiguing.
 Exhausting means making one feel very tired; very tiring.
- 29. (e);** All the given words suitably fit in the blank providing appropriate meaning to the paragraph. Therefore, the most suitable answer choice is option (e).
 Illustrative means serving as an example or explanation.
 Interpretative means relating to or providing an interpretation.
 Instructive means useful and informative.
 Elucidative means to make lucid or clear; throw light upon; explain
- 30. (d);** The most suitable word that will fill the blank to make the paragraph coherent is "occupied" or "acquired". However, all the other words fail to appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph.
- Hence, option (d) is the most feasible answer choice.
 Acquired means buy or obtain (an asset or object) for oneself.
 Dropped means fall vertically.
 Vacated means leave (a place that one previously occupied).
- 31. (c);** The passage describes the several reasons and solutions for providing a guaranteed minimum income to the needy households. A scheme, NYAY has been introduced which is similar to a non-contributory pension scheme and guarantees to cash-transfer of Rs.6000 to the poorest 20 percent households. According to the passage, schemes similar to guaranteed minimum income has already been implemented in several countries. Therefore, the most suitable word that fits grammatically contextually in the context of the paragraph is "headway" [noun] which means forward movement or progress, especially when this is slow or difficult. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.
 Hindrance means a thing that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to something or someone.
 Inclination means a person's natural tendency or urge to act or feel in a particular way; a disposition.
- 32. (b);** The given phrase (B) in italics is grammatically incorrect. "If" is used while introducing a conditional clause on the condition or supposition that; in the event that. Moreover, "In case" itself means, if it is true that. Since, they both convey a similar meaning, the usage of both makes one or the other redundant. Also, notice that the correct way to structure second conditional sentences is to use the simple past tense in the if-clause and an auxiliary modal verb (e.g., could, should, would, might) in the main clause (the one that expresses the unrealistic or unlikely outcome). Therefore, "It would be nice if India could achieve something similar" is most suitable choice to replace the phrase (B). Hence option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 33. (a);** The given sentence of the passage is describing about the estimation of the "minimum-income gap" by the authors. Therefore, by interchanging the words "estimate" and "authors" in their respective positions, the sentence would become grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. The other highlighted words are accurate in their positions. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

34. (d); The passage describes the several reasons and solutions for providing a guaranteed minimum income to the needy households. A scheme, NYAY has been introduced which is similar to a non-contributory pension scheme and guarantees to cash-transfer of Rs.6000 to the poorest 20 percent households. However, till statement (D) the paragraph has mentioned only about the distribution of a minimum of Rs. 6000 per month to the below minimum income households. Also the phrase in statement (D) "...but it does not tell us..." indicates that some additional information is missing regarding the scheme mentioned in the prior sentence. Option (d) precisely fits in the context of the passage. Hence, it becomes the most suitable answer choice.

35. (d); The most suitable word to fill in the blank is "proposal" as the sentence of the passage describes the minimum guarantee income scheme suggested by the congress party. The other words are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningful. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Mandates means official orders or commission to do something.

Injunction means an authoritative warning or order.

36. (c); Since the paragraph here describes the impracticality of the collection of data of minimum income and actual income, the most suitable word to replace the incorrect highlighted word at (F) is "virtually" which means nearly; almost. The other words are either grammatically incorrect or contextually wrong. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

Affably means friendly and easy to talk to

Horridly means to bristle with fear, shudder

37. (a); The passage describes the issues involved in the implementation of guaranteed minimum income. The latter sentence connected after (G) mentions a solution to the problem by calculating "imputed income". Therefore the sentence previous to (G) must mention about the problem. Only option (a) is satisfying the logic to adjoin both the statements connecting (G). All the other statements are incoherent to the context of the passage. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

38. (c); The statement (H) can be made grammatically correct and contextually meaningful by interchanging the positions of "errors" and "estimates" with each other. The other words in the statement are accurately placed. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

39. (e); The most suitable word to fill the blank (I) is "impression" which means an idea, feeling, or opinion about something or someone, especially one formed without conscious thought or on the basis of little evidence. Since the passage mentions here, "NYAY "guaranteed" Rs 12,000 per month, because most households earn at least Rs. 6,000 on their own, but this is incorrect", it indicates that earlier there was false presumption of NYAY. All the other words are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningful. Hence, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

Origination means the beginning or creation of something.

Cessation means the fact or process of ending or being brought to an end.

40. (e); The given statement (J) is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Since, it does not require any correction; option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

41. (c); Efficacy- the ability to produce a desired or intended result.

Juxtapose- place or deal with close together for contrasting effect.

Belligerent- demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight.

The given phrase "of the vaccine is expected to be 40% — the vaccine prevented four in 10 cases of clinical malaria" in the passage gives a clue that among the given options, the option (c) 'efficacy' is the most appropriate word to fill the blank. Hence, the option (c) is the correct answer.

42. (c); There is an error in the phrase mentioned in the option (c).

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects. Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun (object).

Hence, the option (c) is the correct answer.

43. (d); Phrase ', while 1,700 Americans starkly from injuries" doesn't make any sense whereas 'while 1,700 Americans died from injuries' is pretty much correct. The positions of the words marked with (1) and (4) are correct. Upon interchanging 2-3, we get a sentence which is grammatically and contextually meaningful and correct as "Perhaps this can be seen most starkly at the Battle of Guadalcanal in the South Pacific during World War II where, while 1,700 Americans died from injuries inflicted by the Japanese, over 4-5,000 died due to malaria." Hence, the option (d) is the correct answer.

- 44. (c);** Option (c) is the correct answer choice. Option (a) and (b) can be easily eliminated as they have talked of colonization which is not in the context of the given passage. Option (e) can be also eliminated as it is talking about the dearth of food (potato) same as the option (d) which is talking about the poverty and starvation. Hence, the option (c) is the correct answer.

45. (a); Decimated- kill, destroy, or remove a large proportion of.
relegated- assign an inferior rank or position to the given phrase “was it bubonic plague, typhoid, typhus fever, or Ebola” before the blank suggests that the correct word to fill the blank would be ‘decimated’ because all the diseases mentioned in the phrase are malign in nature, Hence, the option (a) is the correct answer.

46. (c); Relentlessly- in an unceasingly intense or harsh way.
Stubbornly- in a manner that shows dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something.
Aloofly- not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant
Scrupulously- in a very careful and thorough way.
Hence, the option (c) is the correct answer.

47. (e); Among the given options, only option (e) gels well with the preceding and the following sentences of (G). Though the rests seem in the context but don't fill the blank in a sensible manner.

48. (b); The position of (1) (provocatively) and (4) (protein) seems correct, but the words ‘careful’ and ‘inherited’ seem to be incorrectly placed. Phrase “the Africans had careful immunity” doesn't make any sense instead phrase “the Africans had inherited immunity” makes a contextually correct sense. Hence, upon interchanging 2-3, we get the sentence becoming grammatically and contextually correct and meaningful respectively. “More provocatively, in Charles Mann's fantastic survey of the post-Columbus world, titled 1493, he builds a careful case that the institution of transatlantic slavery of Africans from the 17th century onwards overflourished because the Africans had inherited immunity to Plasmodium vivax because of their lack of a protein called Duffy antigen.”
Hence, the option (b) is the correct answer.

49. (e); The given sentence is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful and doesn't require any changes. Hence, the option (e) ‘no error’ is the correct answer.

50. (d); Option (d) is the correct answer choice.
Auspices- approval, support, and control:
Benevolence- the quality of being well meaning; kindness.
Hence, the blank should be filled by the word ‘Auspices’ and so, option (d) is the correct answer.

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STUDY TIPS

A new format of questions has been introduced in which two columns are provided in which column (A) mentions the words/phrases that may be incorrect and column (B) mentions the words/phrases that may replace the incorrect words/phrases. The best way to solve such questions is by understanding the tone and the grammatical syntax of the sentence. In this way, it becomes easier to identify any contextual or grammatical error. One should be extra cautious with the words highlighted in the paragraph as they may be incorrectly used either in meaning or in their usage.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1-10): In each of the following questions given below, a sentence is given with some bold words which may contain errors. Below each of the sentence, a table is given with two columns in which column 'A' contains the list of bold words, and in column 'B' the suggested corrections are listed. You have to choose the best alternate among the four given options. If no correction is required against the given bold words, mark (e) i.e. "None of the above" as your answer.

1. Financial planning is the skillful **synthesizer** of art and science. It's a **profession** that requires **emotional** intelligence more than intellectual intelligence. It's all about knowing what makes people tick, finding out their deepest **inspirations** and seeing whether they have a fighting chance of fulfilling those.

Column A	Column B
1. synthesizer	5. synthesis
2. profession	6. possession
3. emotional	7. emotions
4. inspirations	8. aspirations

- (a) Both (1) - (5) and (4) - (8)
 (b) (2) - (6)
 (c) (1) - (5)
 (d) (3-7)
 (e) None of the above

2. Halting **rampant** environmental degradation in the Himalayas is now **emergency**, and it is **possible** only **across** cooperation among all members of the Himalayan basin community, from the lower Mekong River region and China to the countries of southern Asia.

Column A	Column B
1. rampant	5. remnant
2. emergency	6. urgent
3. possible	7. probable
4. across	8. through

- (a) (4) - (8)
 (b) (2) - (6)
 (c) (1) - (5), (2) - (6) and (4) - (8)
 (d) (2) - (6) and (4) - (8)
 (e) None of the above

3. The report of the committee on real sector statistics **advertised** by the National Statistical Commission (NSC) **realized** earlier this month was met with a **swift** response by the ministry of statistics, which is **tasked** with bringing out statistical publications.

Column A	Column B
1. advertised	5. constituted
2. realized	6. released
3. swift	7. delicate
4. tasked	8. transferred

- (a) (4) - (8)
 (b) (2) - (6)
 (c) (1) - (5), (2) - (6)
 (d) (2) - (6) and (4) - (8)
 (e) None of the above

4. Elections in South Asia are **messed up** but Pakistanis have taken to electoral politics with **gusto** and their polity is colourful and **vibrant**. The good thing about these elections in Pakistan has been that the electoral **conquest** was focused on the political economy of Pakistan.

Column A	Column B
1. messed up	5. messy
2. gusto	6. guts
3. vibrant	7. variance
4. conquest	8. discourse

- (a) Both (1) - (5) and (4) - (8)
 (b) (2) - (6)
 (c) (1) - (5)
 (d) (3-7)
 (e) None of the above

5. India's **stupendous** run in the Asian Games is **evident** from the medal tally. Our sportspersons have made the nation proud **despite** the country **developing** a sporting culture.

Column A		Column B	
1.	stupendous	5.	stupendously
2.	evident	6.	evidencing
3.	despite	7.	in spite
4.	developing	8.	lacking

- (a) Both (1) - (5) and (4) - (8)
 (b) (4) - (8)
 (c) (1) - (5)
 (d) (3-7)
 (e) None of the above

Directions (6-10): In the following questions a sentence is given, some parts of the sentence are given in bold which may have grammatical or spelling error or they may be contextually incorrect. Two columns (A) and (B) are given, column (A) consists of bold parts of the sentence and column (B) consists of the appropriate replacement for the bold parts. Match the correct replacements. If the sentence is correct mark no error as your answer.

6. The NCLT is the right body **to resolve corporate insolvency** and the court did the right thing **to acquire** of a resolution process that it had **took the account for** of the homebuyers' interest, now that Parliament **has amended the law** to incorporate homebuyers as financial creditors.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	to resolve corporate insolvency	(I)	resolving the corporate insolvency
(B)	to acquire	(II)	to let go
(C)	took the account for	(III)	taken up on account
(D)	has amended the law	(IV)	has been amended the law

- (a) D-IV and B-II
 (b) B-II and C-III
 (c) A-I and B-II
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

7. A slow and gradual **weakness of the rupees** is not particularly worrisome for India, **as they are overvalued significantly** in real terms and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **has sufficient reserves** to smoothen volatility in the currency market. The RBI has done well by pre-emptively hiking rates to anchor inflationary expectations, **which will also help** reduce volatility in the currency market.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	weakness of the rupees	(I)	weakening of the rupee
(B)	as they are overvalued significantly	(II)	as it is significantly overvalued
(C)	has sufficient reserves	(III)	had sufficient reserves
(D)	which will also help	(IV)	who would also help

- (a) D-IV and B-II
 (b) B-II and C-III
 (c) A-I and B-II
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

8. Some of a **recent structural reform**, such as the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), **within the liberalization** of foreign direct investment and improvement **in the ease of doing business**, will help **improve economic activity**.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	a recent structural reform	(I)	the recent structural reforms
(B)	within the liberalization	(II)	along with liberalization
(C)	in the ease of doing business	(III)	in the easy business doing
(D)	improve economic activity	(IV)	to be improved economic activity

- (a) D-IV and B-II
 (b) B-II and C-III
 (c) A-I and B-II
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

9. India **has succeeded** to an extent **of the US** and Japan, **but a lackadaisical attitude has** prevailed on both sides **when it comes to** an India-Australia relationship.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	India has succeeded	(I)	India has been succeeded
(B)	of the US	(II)	with the US
(C)	but a lackadaisical attitude has	(III)	besides lackadaisical attitude has
(D)	when it comes to an	(IV)	when they come to an

- (a) D-IV and B-II
 (b) B-II and C-III
 (c) A-I and B-II
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

10. Considering that indexation benefits are not provided in the current tax regime in the computation of capital gains from sale of equity shares, it would be appropriate for the I-T department to consider the FMV of shares and the actual cost of acquisition, whichever is higher, in all circumstances.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	Considering that indexation benefits	(I)	Considered indexation benefits
(B)	in the current tax regime	(II)	inside the current tax regime
(C)	it would be appropriate	(III)	it is appropriated
(D)	and the actual cost of acquisition	(IV)	or the actual cost of acquisition

- (a) D-IV and B-II
 (b) B-II and C-III
 (c) A-I and B-II
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

Directions (11-15): In the following questions a sentence is given, some parts of the sentence are given in bold which may have grammatical or spelling error or they may be contextually incorrect. Two columns (A) and (B) are given, column (A) consists of bold parts of the sentence and column (B) consists of the appropriate replacement for the bold parts. Match the correct replacements. If the sentence is correct mark no error as your answer.

11. Historically, **UP has threw up most of the** prime ministers with **the largest number of** MPs being returned to Lok Sabha, and **Modi too appear to has a game-plan** to make an impact by putting all economic and industrial eggs in the UP basket, **instead of spreading them thin** all over India.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	UP has threw up most of the	(I)	UP has thrown up most of the
(B)	the largest number of	(II)	the largest number with
(C)	Modi too appear to has a game-plan	(III)	Modi too appears to have a game-plan
(D)	instead of spreading them thin	(IV)	instead to spread them thin

- (a) C-III and B-II
 (b) B-II and D-IV
 (c) A-I and C-III
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

12. When this income level are exceeded, most business income can still qualify as long as the business pays a certain amount of wages or has certain depreciable property or has a combination of both.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	When this income level	(I)	When these income levels
(B)	amount of wages	(II)	amount in wage
(C)	certain	(III)	a certain amount of
(D)	has a combination of both	(IV)	have a combinations of both

- (a) C-III and B-II
 (b) A-I and C-III
 (c) B-II and D-IV
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

13. Instead of the temporary problem that it created, people in and out stood by him, appreciating his approach to root out the evil of black money.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	Instead of the temporary	(I)	In spite of the temporary
(B)	people in and out	(II)	people by and large
(C)	appreciating his approach	(III)	to be appreciated his approach
(D)	the evil of black money	(IV)	the sanity of black money

- (a) A-I and B-II
 (b) A-I and C-III
 (c) B-II and D-IV
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

14. Due to the reason of high wildfire danger in the Washington and Idaho, Avista personnel will be making changes to the way they re-energize downed power lines.

Column A		Column B	
(A)	Due to the reason of high wildfire	(I)	Due to high wildfire
(B)	in the Washington	(II)	within the Washington
(C)	will be making changes	(III)	will made the changes
(D)	they re-energize	(IV)	it re-energizes

- (a) A-I and B-II
 (b) A-I and C-III
 (c) B-II and D-IV
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

15. Top management level changes **have been affected suddenly**, agreements have been **signed with private companies** for satellite-related work, the navigation satellite programme **has suffered a setback**, and the moon mission **has apparently been postponed**.

(C)	has suffered a setback	(III)	have been suffering a setback
(D)	has apparently been postponed	(IV)	has been apparently postponed

- (a) A-I and B-II
 (b) A-I and C-III
 (c) B-II and D-IV
 (d) None of the given options are correct
 (e) no error

Solutions

1. (a); The sentence is providing information on the profession of Financial Planning. However, the highlighted words “synthesizer” and “inspirations” are creating contextual errors in the sentence. They should be replaced by “synthesis” and “aspirations” respectively to form a coherent sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

Synthesizer means an electronic musical instrument, typically operated by a keyboard, producing a wide variety of sounds by generating and combining signals of different frequencies.

Synthesis means the combination of components or elements to form a connected whole.

Inspirations means the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

Aspirations means a hope or ambition of achieving something.

2. (d); The sentence is describing about the severe degradation of the environment which can be halted only through the cooperation among all members. However, the highlighted words “emergency” and “across” are grammatically and contextually incorrect. It is to be noted that for using the word “emergency” the sentence requires an article “an” which is not provided. Moreover, “across” is used to from one side to the other of (a place, area, etc.) while “through” by means of (a process or intermediate stage). Therefore, these should be replaced by “urgent” and “through” respectively. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Rampant means (especially of something unwelcome) flourishing or spreading unchecked.

Remnant means a part or quantity that is left after the greater part has been used, removed, or destroyed.

3. (c); The highlighted words “advertised” and “realized” are contextually incorrect in accordance to the

theme of the sentence. They should be replaced by “constituted” and “released” respectively to frame a contextually meaningful sentence. The other highlighted words are grammatically correct and contextually relevant. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

Advertised means describe or draw attention to (a product, service, or event) in a public medium in order to promote sales or attendance.

Constituted means give legal or constitutional form to (an institution); establish by law.

Realized means become fully aware of (something) as a fact; understand clearly.

Released means allow or enable to escape from confinement; set free.

Tasked means make great demands on (someone's resources or abilities).

4. (a); The words/ phrase given in bold “messed up” and “conquest” create either grammatical or contextual error in the sentence. To correct the sentence, replace these words by “messy” and “discourse” respectively. It is to be noted that while stating a general truth or fact, present tense is used, therefore, the phrase “messed up” stands incorrect in the sentence. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

Gusto means enjoyment and enthusiasm in doing something.

Guts means personal courage and determination; toughness of character

Conquest means the subjugation and assumption of control of a place or people by military force.

Discourse means written or spoken communication or debate.

5. (b); The word given in bold “developing” creates a contextual error in the sentence. To correct the sentence, replace these words by “lacking”. All the other highlighted words are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

6. **(b);** The sentence can be corrected by replacing phrases (B) and (C) by phrases (II) and (III) respectively. Phrase (B) creates a contextual error in the sentence, since it is describing about the shift of authority to resolve corporate insolvency from the court to the NCLT. Therefore, "to acquire" should be replaced by the idiom "to let go" which means to allow someone or something to escape or go free. Moreover, phrase (C) should be replaced phrase (III) as phrase (C) does not fit in the appropriate grammatical syntax. All the other highlighted phrases are correct. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
7. **(c);** Phrases (A) and (B) are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningless. Phrase (A) means that rupees have some weakness while the appropriate phrase should be phrase (I) which means that there is a devaluation of rupee. Moreover, phrase (II) fits in the appropriate grammatical syntax since the pronoun "it" should represent "rupee" instead of "they". All the other highlighted phrases are correct. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.
8. **(c);** Phrases (A) and (B) are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningless. Therefore, they should be replaced by the phrases (I) and (II) respectively. It is to be noted that the sentence is beginning with "some of..." which implies that the noun associated with it [structural reforms] should be in its plural form. Moreover, phrase (B) creates a contextual error, hence it should be replaced by phrase (II). All the other highlighted phrases are correct. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
9. **(d);** Phrase (B) contains a grammatical error as "of" should be replaced by "with" to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. Since, all the other phrases are grammatically correct, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
10. **(d);** Phrase (D) contains a grammatical error as "and" should be replaced by "or" to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. The hint for the same can be drawn from the latter part of the sentence stating, "whichever is higher". This indicates a choice between the two objects. Thus, "or the actual cost of acquisition" is the suitable phrase to fit in the sentence. Since, all the other phrases are grammatically correct, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
11. **(c);** Phrases (A) and (C) are grammatically incorrect which should be replaced by phrases (I) and (III) respectively. Phrase (A) should be in past participle tense, therefore, "threw up" should be replaced by "thrown up". Moreover, in phrase (C), since Modi is singular, the verb associated to it

should also be singular, hence "appear" should be replaced by "appears". In addition to, 'have to' is used to mean that something is necessary. It is used in the following way in affirmative sentences: "subject + modal (have to / has to) + verb". All the other phrases are correct and do not require any corrections or replacements. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.

12. **(b);** Phrase (A) and (C) are grammatically incorrect and therefore, they should be replaced with phrases (I) and (III). It is to be noted that the non-highlighted part "...are exceeded" provides a hint that the subject of the sentence should also be in its plural form, hence, "this income level" should be replaced by "these income level". Moreover, it is to be noted that the phrase "a certain amount of" is always followed by an uncountable noun while; "certain" is followed by a plural noun. Since, the non-highlighted part mentions "...depreciable property", therefore, the highlighted part should be "a certain amount of". All the other highlighted parts are correct. Therefore, option (b) is the most feasible answer choice.
13. **(a);** Phrases (A) and (B) contain errors in them. It is to be noted that, "instead of" means 'as a substitute for or alternative to' while; "in spite of" means 'without being affected by the particular factor mentioned'. Thus, to make the phrase contextually relevant to the sentence, replace phrase (A) by phrase (I). Moreover, there is a contextual error in phrase (B) as well. The idiom 'in and out' means inconsistent and unreliable, which fails to provide appropriate meaning to the sentence, thus it should be replaced by phrase (II) as, idiom "by and large" means on the whole; everything considered. All the other highlighted phrases are precise; hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
14. **(d);** The error lies in only the phrase (A) of the sentence. It is to be noted that the phrase "due to the reason of" stands incorrect as "due to" and "reason" provides similar contextual meaning, hence one of the term is redundant in the phrase. Therefore, phrase (A) should be replaced by phrase (I) to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Since none of the given combinations provide the appropriate answer, option (d) becomes the most feasible answer choice.
15. **(e);** All the highlighted phrases of the given sentence are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Thus, they do not require any replacements or corrections. Hence, option (e) is the most viable answer choice.



STUDY TIPS

This pattern of Reading comprehensions was asked in RECENT EXAMS. It is similar to old pattern, but the difference is the kind of question one expects from these reading comprehensions. Inference questions and paragraph connection questions are something which you will find usually in these patterns instead of direct questions.

Tricks: Before reading a student must understand what he/she must look mostly for in the passage. Understanding the theme and authors view point is important as it helps to eliminate most of the option. For reading quickly practice **"TIME BASED READING"**. In this method you practice by reading an article in the newspaper within the stipulated time which you set according to yourself.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1- 5): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them.

Paragraph 1: Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Y.V. Reddy, in a speech last week, said that confidence in the working of public sector banks is at a historic low. The reason for this is not very difficult to discern. PSU banks are grappling with a high level of bad loans, and a number of them have been put under RBI's prompt corrective action and are not in a position to lend. In the March quarter, PSU banks booked losses in excess of Rs 62,000 crore and the total gross non-performing assets (NPAs) stood at about Rs 9 trillion. Although the government is in the process of recapitalising state-run banks, it is likely that the current Rs 2.11 trillion PSU bank recapitalization plan will not be sufficient to put the PSU banks back on track. Since PSU banks own about 70% of banking assets, their inability to lend will have a direct impact on economic growth. Therefore, it is important that the situation is handled with care.

Paragraph 2: As recently reported by Bloomberg, four out of 21 PSU banks have not appointed replacements for chief executive officers (CEOs) and top executives in nine more banks are expected to leave in the coming months. Given this state of affairs, it is possible that new CEOs may not be appointed in time. It is certainly not a desirable situation, especially at a time when banks are stressed and need swift decision making. It is important to have a plan in place for a smooth transition at the top. However, it is also likely that the government will find it difficult to attract talent due to the fear of investigative agencies among bankers. A number of present and former senior executives are under investigation for past transactions. The government must ensure that investigations don't become a witch-hunt, and that the issue is handled with utmost care.

Paragraph 3: The government is now mulling the formation of an asset reconstruction company(ARC) for faster resolution of bad loans and has constituted a committee to make recommendations in this regard. The committee is expected to submit its recommendation in two weeks. While it will be interesting to see the suggestions, in principle, the idea is unlikely to go very far. The basic problem will be one of valuation of stressed assets. For instance, if they are transferred at par and the resolution is left to a government-owned ARC, it could end up creating more complications in the system. Also, the ARC will need a significant amount of capital, which the government is not in a position to provide. Banks should be able to resolve bad assets under this framework. If the government can actually find resources to reduce stress in the banking system, it would do well to reassess the capital requirement of PSU banks and revisit the capital infusion plan.

Paragraph 4: Apart from capital needs and faster resolution of stress assets, PSU banks need governance reforms—something that has been largely missing so far from the picture. It is correct that the present government has refrained from micromanaging PSU banks, but this in itself will not solve the problem. The government, perhaps, needs to put in place a new framework for governance where, for instance, appointments at higher levels are made in time, and the board is professional and accountable. A situation where banks run without a CEO should never arise. PSU banks should be in a position to attract talent by offering competitive compensation at every level to be able to improve their operation and risk management systems. Only when banks are run by professionals will they be in a position to fund India's growth in the long run and create value for all stakeholders, including the taxpayer.

Paragraph 5: At a broader level, as Reddy noted in his remarks, there should be clarity on the future of PSU banks. In fact, some of the banking reforms will only work if a clear road map is defined. For instance, if the government believes that a few banks should focus on underbanked areas, some fiscal support may be warranted. Perhaps banks should be allowed to focus on specific areas of strength so that they become more efficient over time and are not dependent on budgetary support for growth.

Though the government has entered its last year in office, it still has time to initiate broad reforms and give a fresh direction to PSBs. It will be difficult to sustain higher growth in the medium term without a strong banking system.

1. What is/ are the issue(s) that need attention in order to ameliorate the condition of banks?
 - (I) No reform concocted to create better governance structures in banks
 - (II) Government policies are acting as a hindrance to raise funds for recapitalization.
 - (III) Absence of senior officials to supervise the activities of banks.
 - (IV) Inability of the banks to resolve the bad assets.
 - (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Only (II) and (III)
 - (c) Only (I), (III) and (IV)
 - (d) Only (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) All are correct
2. Is it correct to say that formation of a government owned asset reconstruction company is detrimental in the current situation?
 - (a) Yes, as government has inadequate amount of capital to reconstruct the assets.
 - (b) No, as banks are incompetent to resolve their bad assets.
 - (c) Yes, as banks need support of the government to reduce its stress.
 - (d) No, asset reconstruction company needs regular supervision by the government.
 - (e) None of these
3. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 5 which forms a connection with paragraph 4?
 - (a) Public sector banks should make appointments of new talents, thus bringing a transformation.
 - (b) Banks should focus on strengthening its specific areas of interest at one time.
 - (c) The government should implement new reforms to strengthen the banks.
 - (d) Banks should be directed and controlled by professionals so that they can influence the growth of the nation.
 - (e) Strong banking system is needed to boost economic growth.

4. In context of the passage, the government should focus on
 - (I) recapitalizing the public- sector banks.
 - (II) administering the investigations of banks' supervisors.
 - (III) improving the regulation of banks by making appointments on time.
 - (a) Only (I) and (II) (b) Only (II)
 - (c) Only (II) and (III) (d) Only (III)
 - (e) All of the above.
5. In which context does the word 'mulling' used in the passage?
 - (a) to investigate the regulation of the banks.
 - (b) to initiate new reforms thus giving a fresh direction to Public sector banks.
 - (c) to ponder on the construction of a committee for the clearance of bad loans.
 - (d) to influx an asset reconstruction company in the banking system.
 - (e) All of the above.

Directions (6-10): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them.

Paragraph 1: Coupled with a continual increase in voluntary unemployment, the International Labour Organisation expects unemployment in India to be higher in 2018. In a country where 65% of the population is below 35 years, unemployment, especially among youth, can limit the nation's ability to reap the much-hyped demographic dividend. Recognizing this challenge, a wide range of stakeholders, including the government, companies, civil society organizations, and for-profit enterprises are working either independently or in cohesion to enhance youth employability.

Paragraph 2: The answer to the unemployability perhaps lies in the enormity of the challenge in India—more needs to be done to make a noticeable dent. Additionally, several other challenges give a unique colour to the problem. First, unemployment is higher among the formally educated in comparison to the illiterate. Second, there is higher youth unemployment in rural areas, while most interventions focus on urban areas. Third, there is a mismatch between the skill sets that industries require and the skill sets that youth are equipped with. These structural challenges result in a demand-supply mismatch which can be summarized as a) mismatch between youth aspirations and the skills training being provided, b) mismatch in skills training and industry needs, and c) poor industry buy-in for vocational training courses because of lack of standardization and universally accepted certification.

Paragraph 3: Solutions, therefore, must focus on understanding aspirations, industry requirements and standardization across the skill-development value chain. Well-designed interventions will be effective only if the

candidates are willing, receptive and capable of absorbing the knowledge or skill being imparted by the intervention. Further, candidates may already possess specific complementary skill sets that could provide them with a competitive advantage. A candidate-selection framework would greatly enhance the efficacy of such interventions.

Paragraph 4: Similarly, while designing programmes, it is critical to map skills being imparted to the specific needs of potential employers so that the skilling-to-employment loop is closed seamlessly. A recent right to information request highlighted a failure of placement-led programmes undertaken by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Of the 800,145 candidates trained through non-scheme skilling programmes in 2016-17, only 48.4% received placements. As a result, NSDC plans to move to a model where training partners will receive funds as per the outcomes achieved which is a welcome move for strengthening the placement led programmes. Similarly, when it comes to designing programmes that focus on self-employment or entrepreneurship, it is important to assess demand for the product or service, and study policies or schemes that can be leveraged to enhance sales. This is critical as beneficiaries of such programmes are expected to source their own work after the training.

Paragraph 5: There is also scope for increased public-private partnerships. Most skilling organizations struggle to access premises and technical infrastructure/equipment, which **constrains** their scale. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can use existing under-utilized infrastructure available with educational institutions to facilitate vocational training and skill development with regular analysis and monitoring. PPPs can also facilitate finance and market linkages. For instance, partnerships with financial institutions can provide the seed capital (through government schemes such as Stand-up India) required by beneficiaries of self-employment models to set up micro-businesses.

6. What is/are the factor(s) responsible for unemployability in India?
 - (a) Low rate of manufacturing and production companies in India.
 - (b) Lesser focus in rural areas compared to urban areas.
 - (c) Subpar job specific training
 - (d) Both (b) and (c)
 - (e) All are correct
7. Which of the following step(s) should be taken in order to curb the rising unemployment?
 - (I) Accessing premises and technical infrastructure for training.
 - (II) Providing outcome-based funding to training partners
 - (III) Accessing the policies for enhancing sales.

- (a) Only (II)
- (b) Both (I) and (III)
- (c) Only (III)
- (d) Both (II) and (III)
- (e) All are correct

8. Why there is a mismatch between the skill sets that industries require and the skill sets that youth are equipped with?
 - (a) Enterprises and stakeholders are working independently
 - (b) Lack of scope in public-private partnership
 - (c) Inability in sourcing one's own income
 - (d) Improper assessment of the skills which are needed to be imparted as per the specific demand of employers.
 - (e) None of these.
9. Which of the following can be the reason for the increase in the voluntary unemployment?
 - (a) Inability of the nation's ability to reap the much-hyped demographic dividend.
 - (b) Absence of candidate selection framework
 - (c) Lack of outcome based funding
 - (d) Improper comprehension of the youth's aspiration
 - (e) None of these.

10. In this question, a word is given in bold which is then followed by four words. These four words are then followed by five options which give the combination of the words. Choose the combination of words which are "most similar to" the word given in bold?

CONSTRAINS

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| (I) Coerce | (II) Contrive | |
| (III) Immure | (IV) Stifle | |
| (a) I-III | (b) II-IV | (c) I-IV |
| (d) III-IV | (e) I-II | |

Directions (11- 15): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them.

Paragraph 1: On 7 June, the Union ministry of finance dispatched a letter to the Chairman/Managing Directors of sponsor banks. The letter indicated that the Union government, in consultation with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has decided to go ahead with phase III of the amalgamation of regional rural banks (RRBs). This will bring down the total number from 56 to 38 and ensure that most of the smaller states have only one RRB, while the larger might have two. There is a lot to be said about the merits of this decision (as well as the previous decisions) of amalgamating RRBs cutting across sponsor banks. First, these banks, when they were set up, were seen as alternatives to cooperatives, adding a touch of professionalism to the local feel, a cooperative society provided. They were seen as decentralized solutions for

the skewed banking development that was happening across the country, with the south and west being well banked while the north-east, east, and central regions suffered. While we do have large nationalized banks for the purposes of banking services in general, RRBs provide services proximate to the rural customer. There are merits in the argument that size reduces overheads, makes regulation easier and optimizes the use of technology. But what is the additional benefit it creates for customers?

Paragraph 2: While the merits of that argument can be debated, let us look at the blatant travesty when it comes to corporate governance. This decision is not being taken in unusual times where the banks are in distress and customer interests are to be protected. Even then, it would be the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rather than the government that would take this call. These are decisions taken in cold blood. If that is the case, what is the role of the respective boards of the RRBs, and the boards of the sponsor banks?

Paragraph 3: The government does not seem to be carrying out even a token consultation with the RRBs' boards. Of course, they are substantially owned by the government. The Union government has a 50% stake, the respective state governments, 15%, and the sponsor banks have a 35% stake. There is no indication that the Union government consulted the respective state governments. The letter from the ministry is terse. It just asks the chairmen/managing directors to send a no-objection before a certain date. That is it. It does not expect anybody except the people in the ministry to apply their minds to the proposal. The forced merger of RRBs without consultation of the owners can only be seen as tyranny. This is a warning bell for the public-sector banking reforms that might be in the offing.

Paragraph 4: Even in the case of public sector banks, there is constant talk about the Union government wanting to merge some banks and have a few larger banks. We saw that with the associate banks of the State Bank of India (SBI) getting merged with the SBI and the chairperson (getting an extension of tenure just to oversee this merger process). There is much chatter on the possibility of large-scale merger proposals. These, when they happen, will be legally valid because the government has the power to do so under the Bank Nationalization Act. But is this the most appropriate way of going about the task? After all, these are large listed institutions that not only have minority shareholders but a large number of depositors whose savings are at stake. Does the bureaucracy have the necessary expertise to understand the nuances and see the merits of the mergers? What should be the reform agenda? Should we not first identify the horse and the cart and then get the sequence right?

Paragraph 5: Governance reform should perhaps start with making public sector institutions more accountable to market discipline. Move them from the Bank Nationalization Act to the Companies Act, make them accountable to the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and address the concerns expressed by the RBI governor about a level playing field in the supervision and regulation of public sector banks by removing all the exemptions under the Banking Regulation Act. This would make them more accountable with regard to their strategy and financials to a larger set of analysts. This would also help them discover their strategic positioning. The next step would be to move towards reducing the government stake, both directly and indirectly. Not only does the government own these entities directly, it also exerts control through institutions controlled by the government such as the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Once that is done, the state has to ensure that there is an interested single promoter-like shareholder.

11. The reason (s) behind merging of RRBs is/ are
 - (I) to improve the condition of the cooperative sector.
 - (II) to make the banks recover from bad loans.
 - (III) to systematize the banking system across the country.
 - (IV) to make regulation easier in banks.
 - (a) Only (IV)
 - (b) Only (I), (III) and (IV)
 - (c) Only (III)
 - (d) Only (II) and (III)
 - (e) All are correct
12. Which of the following sentences can be inferred from paragraph 3 which form(s) a connection with paragraph 2?
 - (a) Union government is the maximum stake holder of RRB.
 - (b) Union government should reduce its stake holding either directly or indirectly.
 - (c) Many public-sector banks are merging with private sector institutions.
 - (d) The government has not consulted Board members before giving their decision.
 - (e) All of the above
13. In which context is 'cold blood' used in the passage?
 - (a) to display insensitive step taken by government without consent of boards members.
 - (b) to make government realize their role towards banks.
 - (c) to promote RRBs at larger level.
 - (d) to underscore the urgency of good governance in the banking industry.
 - (e) to highlight the advantages of amalgamating the banks.

14. According to the passage, which is the most appropriate way of regulating good governance in banks?
- Investing in government bonds.
 - Making banks responsible and reliable entity to market discipline.
 - Infusing adequate capital to the banks.
 - Employing other institutions to control the banks.
- Only (IV)
 - Only (I), (III) and (IV)
 - Only (III)
 - Only (II) and (IV)
 - All are correct
15. According to the passage, what is the main purpose of forming RRBs?
- to assist government in raising the capital.
 - to support commercial banking in bad loans.
 - to provide basic facilities to low class families.
 - to connect rural population to banking sector.
 - All of the above.

Directions (16- 20): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Paragraph 1: Rudyard Kipling once described Shimla as a “centre of power and pleasure”. The power faded with the Raj. Now, pleasure is at a premium. Shimla is struggling with a water crisis that is an echo of Cape Town’s distress earlier this year. It has run out of municipal drinking water supply during peak tourist season. Citizens are being forced to queue up to collect water from tankers. Schools have been shut down for 10 days. This crisis is a reflection of a wider problem confronting India.

Paragraph 2: India has adequate freshwater. The problem is inefficient and wasteful use. According to the Central Water Commission, agriculture consumed about 85.3% of total freshwater in 2000. This is likely to decrease only by a meagre 2% by 2025. Water usage for major crops in India—paddy and maize, for instance—is two to four times that in other large farming nations thanks to wasteful flood irrigation, mostly in northern India. This can be traced to the subsidy regime. The Economic Survey, 2015-16 noted that the present subsidy structure “encourages using more inputs such as fertilizer, water and power, to the **detriment** of soil quality, health and the environment”. Most states provide electricity either for free or at a flat rate. This **inevitably** leads to wasteful water extraction. Both the Economic Survey and a 2015 International Monetary Fund (IMF) study have noted that these subsidies disproportionately benefit rich and large farmers. A number of economists have recommended **tapering off** electricity and water subsidies. The Aadhaar and financial inclusion drives have laid the foundations for the Centre and states to do just that via targeted direct benefit transfers.

Paragraph 3: Concurrently, irrigation infrastructure must be upgraded and research and development efforts focused on improving agricultural productivity with lower water usage. There have been some promising developments here. Punjab Agriculture University, for example, has recently come up with a new water-saving variety of rice that matures one to five weeks earlier than other varieties without compromising on the yield. The government is also collaborating with Israel—an established leader in water-management techniques—to promote drip irrigation; Asia’s largest such project took off in Karnataka earlier this year.

Paragraph 4: About 80% of drinking water needs are sustained by groundwater. Look no further than today’s centre of power to see the problems here. In 2001, India’s groundwater authority banned private water extraction in Delhi due to the **looming** fear of groundwater depletion. However, the black market persists. Here’s how **dire** the situation is: According to scientists at the National Geophysical Research Institute, Delhi could dry up in a few years.

Paragraph 5: It’s worth noting here that water is a state subject and states have kept water-pricing rates stagnant for about three decades now. Pair this with the subsidy burden—the IMF study reckoned that it “amounted to 0.6% of global gross domestic product in 2012”—and authorities are left with little financial means to invest in the water-management practices that would provide sustainable, long-term solutions. These range from the construction of reservoirs to building water treatment and recycling infrastructure. Putting in place viable water-pricing policies and ending subsidies will be tricky given the political optics. But these are essential changes. Others are needed as well. India has an antiquated legal framework to regulate groundwater. Since it is considered a part of land and gives landowners unrestricted entitlement to it, the government is left with little leeway to act. Legislative change is important.

16. According to the passage, which of the following sentences portray the crisis(es) in Shimla?
- There is irregular Electricity supply in Shimla.
 - Educational institutes have been shut down.
 - People are struggling for water accessibility.
 - Shortage of municipal drinking water supply in Shimla.
- Only (I)
 - Only (I) and (II)
 - Only (II), (III) and (IV)
 - Only (I), (II) and (III)
 - All are correct

17. According to the passage, what is/ are the component(s) of unnecessary use of water?
- Excess supply of water to other states.
 - Excess use of groundwater for personal use.
 - Large consumption of freshwater in agriculture.
 - Both (b) and (c)
 - All are correct.
18. What efforts should India make to prevent itself from going dry?
- Research and development efforts should be focused on improving agricultural productivity with lower water usage.
 - India should provide water- management awareness to its citizens.
 - India should collaborate with other countries for learning water management techniques.
- Only (I)
 - Both (I) and (III)
 - Both (II) and (III)
 - Only (III)
 - All are correct
19. How can we justify “water is a state subject” stated by the author?
- As water affects every state of economy.
 - As a particular country can decide the future of water availability in their country.
 - As state of a country is responsible for any water crises occurred.
 - As different states have different water procurement process.
 - None of these
20. The appropriate title of the passage is
- India and Israel collaboration
 - The Aadhaar and financial inclusion
 - Improving irrigation infrastructure
 - India to the brink of a water crisis
 - The global gross domestic product: IMF

Directions (21-30): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Indian roads are usually characterized by poor infrastructure and congestion which affect travel time and road safety. This is a big **hindrance** in economic development and leads to inefficiency in the transportation of goods and services across the country. To address this, the government has **embarked** upon a massive overhaul of the country's road network through Bharatmala Pariyojana—an umbrella highway development programme involving 34,800 km of road network at an investment of Rs5.35 trillion, to be

completed by 2022. The programme focuses on optimizing the efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through shorter routes. The end goal is to create economic corridors (ECs) along the path—new industries, more employment and new markets.

The programme, however, will have a negative bearing on the existing road network because it will compete directly with some of the existing build-operate-transfer (BOT) toll road projects. Out of the 44 ECs, about 21 would partially or fully affect the existing alignments, while the remaining 23 that involve upgradation of existing alignment will not result in any **deviation**. Among the 21 corridors affected, eight have a totally different route (which is shorter) while the remaining 13 have some deviations from the existing alignment. Overall, there are 24 BOT projects and one operate-maintain-transfer (OMT) project whose traffic could be affected by the proposed ECs. The Bharatmala programme may result in traffic diversion from the existing road network to new roads, thereby affecting the toll collection and, consequently, the debt servicing ability of some of the BOT and OMT projects. This has raised the risk of default on 25 national highway toll projects which involve Rs19,435 crore of debt. The risk of such loan defaults will add to banks' and financial lenders' stressed assets and non-performing assets. In terms of risk, 12% of the projects have a high risk of leakage in traffic, if a completely alternative route is available, 16% of the projects have moderate risks, and 72%, low risks. To arrive at the debt at risk, the debt outstanding for each of these special purpose vehicles (SPVs), their repayment tenure, concession end date, credit profile of the SPV and its sponsor credit risk profile, are considered. Out of the total debt at risk for the 25 affected projects about Rs6,536 crore, which accounts for about 34% of the total debt at risk, is high-risk. Projects with debt at a moderate risk have an aggregate debt of Rs3,483 crore, while about Rs9,416 crore of debt is considered to be low-risk.

To ensure that the existing BOT projects that are at risk of default do not turn bad for the financial institutions, swift and adequate measures are needed. The Kelkar committee had observed that since infrastructure projects span over 20-30 years, a private developer may lose bargaining power owing to abrupt changes in the economic or policy environment. It has thus recommended that the private sector must be protected against such loss. This could be ensured by allowing renegotiation of the terms of the concession agreement.

Financial institutions are already reluctant to finance the infrastructure sector, given the rise in non-performing assets (NPAs). Add to this the probable difficulties that would arise in the case of 25 BOT projects, which would put additional stress on the road infrastructure exposure.

The need of the hour is to realign the terms and conditions of the model concession agreement to ensure that banks do not end up accumulating NPAs. Having an appropriate remedial mechanism for BOT operators will help retain interest for investments in new projects; for the lenders, it will help **curtail** the number of stressed assets from the risk of default.

- 21.** According to the passage, Bharatmala Project aims to
- impact industrial development positively
 - create employment and develop new markets
 - improve the political status of the country.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (II) and (III)
 (c) Only (III)
 (d) Only (I) and (II)
 (e) All are correct
- 22.** According to the passage, what worries BOT operators?
- (a) The risk of loan default.
 (b) Disruptions in integrated Infrastructure network.
 (c) Inability to maintain the overall structure of highway network in India.
 (d) Both (a) and (b)
 (e) All are correct
- 23.** The total debt at risk is
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Rs10,456 crore | (b) Rs3,483 crore |
| (c) Rs19,435 crore | (d) Rs9,416 crore |
| (e) Rs18,544 crore | |
- 24.** The appropriate **title** of the passage is
- (a) renegotiating the concession agreement.
 (b) Bharatmala and the rising debt issues
 (c) Creating economic corridors
 (d) The rising issue of stressed assets
 (e) The Kelkar Committee
- 25.** Remedial measure(s) available to BOT operators is/ are
- Providing them the necessary resources for accomplishment of the project.
 - realigning the terms and conditions of the model concession agreement to ensure that banks do not end up accumulating NPAs.
 - Allowing renegotiation of the terms of concession agreement to private sector.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) Only (III)
 (d) Both (I) and (II)
 (e) All are correct

Directions (26- 30): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them.

Paragraph 1: Sometime last year, the Union government suddenly announced that India would make the paradigm shift to full electric mobility by 2030. This was more a

statement of intent signalling a necessary and transformative shift to ease polluting vehicular emissions on our congested roads. NITI Aayog has since suggested that 40% of personal vehicles and public transportation in the country should go completely electric by 2030. This seems a more realistic target. There have been extensive discussions over the last few months on the way forward to increase the use of electric vehicles (EVs). A new policy announcement has been rightly shelved; Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) II appears to have been postponed to September, and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd has also deferred its purchase of 10,000 EVs. These developments essentially underline the difficulties of proceeding on an uncharted path.

Paragraph 2: In our enthusiasm to adopt electric mobility, we should not rush into a flawed policy and implementation framework. Sober analysis and a step-by-step approach are required even as the ecosystem for electric vehicles develops gradually, alternative models are pursued, and learnings from experience accrue. Issues today relate to public vs private transportation; battery charging vs swapping models; nature and quantity of incentives; and development of storage technologies.

Paragraph 3: Our initial focus must be unquestionably on public transportation—bus, taxi and auto fleets. Public transport in India is expected to double by 2030. It is the major consumer of diesel and petrol and responsible for substantial polluting emissions. Primarily, then, we must electrify vehicles which travel long distances every day. In personal transport, two-wheelers must be prioritized since India has one of the largest two-wheeler markets in the world. If we opt for the charging model, traffic congestion will worsen, with lengthy queues. The battery swapping model, however, would involve no waiting time. Stations could be at bus depots or at select petrol pumps. It will take 2-3 minutes to swap, similar to the time taken to fill up and pay for petrol. This would control congestion at these points. Swapping stations would supply fully charged new batteries, allowing users to get higher range. Their storage conditions will also help enhance battery life.

Paragraph 4: There have been some concerns about previous experiences in China and Israel. But these models were meant for personal cars and were costly. Besides, lack of marketing, proper execution and mismanagement led to the failure of the promising EV start-up in Israel Better Place. The subsidy structure also became distorted, favoring large batteries. Currently, the subsidy structure for a car does not incentivize the purchase of an electric car as the capital cost is much higher. The same applies to a bus. Both models should get equivalence in subsidy support. A small group should immediately study this issue. Efficiency in terms of total cost per kilometre, not capital costs or larger batteries, should be incentivized.

Paragraph 5: Ideally, the best course would be to select five smart cities with the objective of fully electrifying their public transportation as well as 50% of their two-wheelers by 2025. This means just EVs should be registered there two years from now. Each year, five more cities should be added. Both charging and swapping models should be given space. Within five years, we will have sufficient experience to plan a further accelerated transition, including perhaps daytime charging by solar, which could prove more suitable for swapping. An expert group should lay the groundwork for these plans. We must take small steps to make the big leap. Shenzhen in China is adopting EVs in phases. From 1 July, all ride-hailing vehicles should be EVs, and, by 31 December, all the remaining taxis should be replaced by EVs.

26. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Battery swapping model is more efficient than charging model.
- (b) According to NITI Aayog, 40% of transportation system should go electric by 2030.
- (c) All diesel or petrol vehicles should be replaced by electric vehicles soon.
- (d) Improper management is the factor responsible for failure of EV model in Israel.
- (e) All of the above

27. How electric vehicles project can become feasible in India?

- (I) by encouraging the use of less personal vehicles.
- (II) by adopting battery swapping model to avoid traffic congestion.
- (III) by employing long distance electrified vehicles in order to reduce pollution emission.

- (a) Only (I)
- (b) Only (III)
- (c) Both (I) and (II)
- (d) Both (II) and (III)
- (e) All are correct

28. According to the passage, how must Electric Vehicles be promoted by government?

- (a) by incentivizing two-wheeler vehicles
- (b) by enhancing battery life
- (c) by providing personal cars
- (d) by subsidizing its batteries
- (e) All of the above

29. According to the passage, how the electric mobility policy should be implemented?

- (a) through expert framework.
- (b) by selecting five cities at a time to be electrified.
- (c) by allowing both charging and swapping models to be there for battery backup.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) All are correct

30. Choose the appropriate title of the passage.

- (a) Step-by-Step approach to electric vehicles
- (b) Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles
- (c) Increasing pollution and traffic congestion
- (d) Road map for electric vehicles in India
- (e) Challenges in implementing electric vehicles

Solutions

1. (c); Going through the passage, we come across the issues PSU banks are facing.

In Paragraph 2, it has been mentioned that appointment of top officials has not been done since long time, which signifies the poor supervision of the activities of banks.

In Paragraph 3, the inability of banks to resolve the bad assets has been discussed for which asset reconstruction company has been decided to form.

In Paragraph 4, the need for governance reforms has been discussed.

Whereas, Sentence (II) is irrelevant with respect to the passage.

Hence option (c) is the most appropriate choice.

2. (a); We can assert from Paragraph 3 that formation of a government-owned asset reconstruction company is detrimental since, that the

government is not in the position to provide significant amount of capital to resolve the bad assets.

This proves the fidelity of option (a).

Refer to the lines of 3rd paragraph "The basic problem will be one of valuation of stressed assets. For instance, if they are transferred at par and the resolution is left to a government-owned ARC, it could end up creating more complications in the system. Also, the ARC will need a significant amount of capital, which the government is not in a position to provide."

3. (c); Here (Paragraph 4 and Paragraph 5) the emphasis has been laid on the governance reforms needed by the banks. By initiating broad reforms, government can bring transformation in the current situation of banks. Thus, we can easily point out that sentence (c) forms a connection with Paragraph 4 and hence is the correct answer choice.

4. (e); All the three objectives of the government have been mentioned in the passage. For expression (I) refer to the 1st paragraph "Although the government is in the process of recapitalizing state-run banks, it is likely that the current Rs 2.11 trillion PSU bank recapitalization plan will not be sufficient to put the PSU banks back on track." For the 2nd objective, refer to the 2nd paragraph, "A number of present and former senior executives are under investigation for past transactions. The government must ensure that investigations don't become a witch-hunt, and that the issue is handled with utmost care." While the 3rd objective to be focused by banks is mentioned in 2nd paragraph "However, it is also likely that the government will find it difficult to attract talent due to the fear of investigative agencies among bankers." Since, all three areas of government that requires focus have been illustrated in the passage, option (e) becomes the right choice.
5. (c); 'Mulling' is a verb which means think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion. It has been used in paragraph 3 indicating the deep thought given on the formation of an asset reconstruction committee for resolving the bad loans. This suggests that sentence (c) is the most appropriate choice. Other sentences are not related to the word 'mulling'. Refer the lines "The government is now mulling the formation of an asset reconstruction company(ARC) for faster resolution of bad loans and has constituted a committee to make recommendations in this regard."
6. (d); We can conclude that sentences (b) and (c) are correct. Refer to the last 2 lines of the 2nd paragraph of the passage "(c) poor industry buy-in for vocational training courses because of lack of standardization and universally accepted certification", it can be inferred that option (c) is correct as subpar means something that is below average, or below what is expected. Option (b) is also correct, refer to second paragraph of the passage, "there is higher youth unemployment in rural areas, while most interventions focus on urban areas."
7. (d); Refer the fourth paragraph of the passage in which it is stated that the NSDC planned to provide funds to training partners according to the outcomes achieved, which is the first move by NSDC for designing programmes and meeting the specific needs of potential employers. Hence option (d) is the most appropriate choice.
- Refer the lines "...As a result, NSDC plans to move to a model where training partners will receive funds as per the outcomes achieved."
8. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice for the given question. Refer to the 4th paragraph of the passage, "Similarly, when it comes to designing programmes that focus on self-employment or entrepreneurship, it is important to assess demand for the product or service, and study policies or schemes that can be leveraged to enhance sales", the key word is "assessing" and "similarly". The author through his other case wants to imply that there is a lack of assessment by the placement led programmes.
9. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice. The "Voluntary Unemployment" refers to the situation when the worker deliberately chooses not to work because of a low wage scale or not able to find out the suitable employment for him. Refer to the 1st line of the 3rd paragraph of the passage, "Solutions, therefore, must focus on understanding aspirations". This was referring to the solution to the rising unemployment. As aspiration means a hope or ambition of achieving something, therefore, we can infer that the rise in the voluntary unemployment lies in the improper comprehension(understanding) of their ambitions or aspirations.
10. (d); Option (d) is the correct choice as Immure and Stifle are similar in meaning to constrains. Constrain in the context of the passage means severely restrict the scope, extent, or activity of. Immure means enclose or confine (someone) against their will. Stifle means prevent or constrain (an activity or idea). Coerce means persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats. Contrive means create or bring about (an object or a situation) by deliberate use of skill and artifice.
11. (b); Sentence (I),(III) and (IV) are correct as they provide the correct reason behind merging of RRBs. Paragraph 1 mentions the merits of amalgamation of RRBs, making regulation easier is one of them. Refer the lines (i) "First, these banks, when they were set up, were seen as alternatives to cooperatives." (ii) "They were seen as decentralized solutions for the skewed banking development that was happening across the country, with the south and west being well banked while the north-east, east, and central regions suffered." (iii) "There are merits in the argument that size reduces overheads, makes regulation easier and optimizes the use of technology."

12. (d);It has been discussed in Paragraphs 3 the step taken by government without even a token consultation with the RRBs' board, forming a connection with paragraph 2.
All the other options are irrelevant.
Hence option (d) is the correct answer choice.

13. (a);Referring to the second paragraph of the passage we can infer that 'cold blood' is used in terms of the decision taken by the government without consultation of boards of RRBs. Hence this step is regarded as insensitive taken in unusual times.
Hence sentence (a) is the most appropriate choice here. Refer the lines "Even then, it would be the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rather than the government that would take this call. These are decisions taken in cold blood. If that is the case, what is the role of the respective boards of the RRBs, and the boards of the sponsor banks?"

14. (d);Refer the fifth paragraph of the passage in which it is mentioned that government should instead of merging the banks go for other options like reducing their stake and giving it to other institutions for controlling the banks. Government should also work towards making public sector institutions more accountable to market discipline.

Hence only sentences (II) and (IV) are correct proving fidelity of option (d).

Refer the lines "Governance reform should perhaps start with making public sector institutions more accountable to market discipline."

"The next step would be to move towards reducing the government stake, both directly and indirectly. Not only does the government own these entities directly, it also exerts control through institutions controlled by the government such as the Life Insurance Corporation of India."

15. (d);Refer first paragraph of the passage in which it is mentioned the purpose of RRB which is to provide banking services to rural customers.
All the other sentences are not its correct explanation.

Hence option (d) is the most appropriate choice.
Refer the lines "While we do have large nationalized banks for the purposes of banking services in general, RRBs provide services proximate to the rural customer."

16. (c);It has been mentioned in the first paragraph of the passage that Shimla is struggling with water crises as municipal water supply is discontinued, schools have been shut down and citizens are

being forced to queue up to collect water from tankers. From these we can conclude that sentences (II), (III) and (IV) are correct. Sentence (I) is irrelevant in context of the passage. Hence option (c) is most appropriate choice.

Refer the lines "It has run out of municipal drinking water supply during peak tourist season. Citizens are being forced to queue up to collect water from tankers. Schools have been shut down for 10 days."

17. (d);The author has highlighted two components of inefficient and wasteful use of water in the passage, first is in agriculture and second is in personal consumption.

Hence, we can make option (d) as our choice.
Sentence (a) is irrelevant with respect to the passage.

Refer the lines of second paragraph "According to the Central Water Commission, agriculture consumed about 85.3% of total freshwater in 2000."

Refer the lines of fourth paragraph "About 80% of drinking water needs are sustained by groundwater".

18. (b);Refer the third paragraph of the passage where the efforts needed to be made are mentioned in order to prevent excess use of water.

Sentence (II) is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

Hence option (b) is the most appropriate choice to be made.

19. (b);Refer the fifth paragraph of the passage in which water is defined as a state subject which have kept the water-pricing rates constant since long time thus affecting its availability and GDP.

Hence, we can mark option (b) as its correct explanation.

Refer the lines "It's worth noting here that water is a state subject and states have kept water-pricing rates stagnant for about three decades now. Pair this with the subsidy burden—the IMF study reckoned that it "amounted to 0.6% of global gross domestic product in 2012"—and authorities are left with little financial means to invest in the water- management practices that would provide sustainable, long-term solutions."

20. (d);The appropriate title for the given passage is "India to the brink of a water crisis". This is because the whole passage describes about the water crisis that are happening in various parts of India.

For example Shimla is struggling with water crisis due to which schools have been shut down. Many more such examples have been given in the passage.

21. (d); We can conclude from first paragraph of the passage that sentences (I) and (II) are in relevance with the passage. As mentioned in the paragraph that the goal is to create new industries, more employment and new markets. Hence, we can clearly infer from this that these developments will bring the socio-economic change and will uplift the underdeveloped regions of the country.

Sentence (III) is totally irrelevant in context to the passage.

Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

Refer the lines "The programme focuses on optimizing the efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through shorter routes. The end goal is to create economic corridors (ECs) along the path—new industries, more employment and new markets."

22. (d); Both (a) and (b) options are correct in context to the passage.

Existing road network got affected with implementation of Bharatmala Pariyojana. This programme affect the toll collection and thereby debt servicing ability. Hence option (d) is the correct choice. Sentence (c) is incorrect as it is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

Refer the lines "The Bharatmala programme may result in traffic diversion from the existing road network to new roads, thereby affecting the toll collection and, consequently, the debt servicing ability of some of the BOT and OMT projects."

"Out of the 44 ECs, about 21 would partially or fully affect the existing alignments, while the remaining 23 that involve upgradation of existing alignment will not result in any deviation."

23. (c); The total debt at risk is Rs19,435 crore. It has mentioned in the passage that debt servicing ability has raised the risk of default on 25 national highway toll projects involving Rs19,435 crore of debt.

Hence option (c) is the most appropriate choice.

Refer the line of second paragraph "This has raised the risk of default on 25 national highway toll projects which involve Rs19,435 crore of debt."

24. (b); "Bharatmala and the rising debt issues" is an appropriate title of the passage.

25. (b); Refer the fourth paragraph of the passage in which it is clearly mentioned that the need of the hour is to realign the terms and conditions of the model concession agreement to ensure that banks do not end up accumulating NPAs. Now in the third paragraph ,refer the lines "This could be ensured by allowing renegotiation of the terms of the concession agreement.", "the NHAI can compensate the affected BOT operators and account for it in the total outlay of the Bharatmala

programme." Hence option (b) is the correct choice. Sentence (I) is irrelevant here.

26. (e); All of the given sentences can be inferred from the passage.

Sentence (a): Refer paragraph 3 "If we opt for the charging model, traffic congestion will worsen, with lengthy queues. The battery swapping model, however, would involve no waiting time."

Sentence (b): Refer paragraph 1 "NITI Aayog has since suggested that 40% of personal vehicles and public transportation in the country should go completely electric by 2030."

Sentence (c): Refer paragraph 5 "From 1 July, all ride-hailing vehicles should be EVs, and, by 31 December, all the remaining taxis should be replaced by EVs."

Sentence (d): Refer paragraph 4 "Besides, lack of marketing, proper execution and mismanagement led to the failure of the promising EV start-up in Israel Better Place."

27. (d); In reference to paragraph 3, we can conclude that sentences (II) and (III) are correct.

Various measures have been mentioned that will encourage the use of electric vehicles using of battery swapping model and long distance Electric vehicles are some of them.

Sentence (I) is irrelevant to the passage.

Hence option (d) is the most appropriate choice.

Refer the lines "Primarily, then, we must electrify vehicles which travel long distances every day. In personal transport, two-wheelers must be prioritized since India has one of the largest two-wheeler markets in the world. If we opt for the charging model, traffic congestion will worsen, with lengthy queues."

28. (d); We can refer to paragraph 4 of the passage that mentions that electric vehicles should be subsidized through its large batteries.

Hence option (d) is the most appropriate choice to be made.

29. (e); All the given sentences are correct in context of the paragraph 5. All the sentences, according to the paragraph 5, indicate that the policy should be implemented in phases.

Refer the lines "Ideally, the best course would be to select five smart cities with the objective of fully electrifying their public transportation as well as 50% of their two-wheelers by 2025."

"Each year, five more cities should be added. Both charging and swapping models should be given space."

"An expert group should lay the groundwork for these plans."

Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

30. (d); "Road map for electric vehicles in India" is an appropriate title of the passage as the whole passage revolves around this theme.

STUDY TIPS

Before reading a student must understand what he/she must look mostly for in the passage. Understanding the theme and authors view point is important as it helps to eliminate most of the option.

For reading quickly practice "TIME BASED READING". In this method you practice by reading an article in the newspaper within the stipulated time which you set according to yourself.

Practice Exercise Based on New Pattern

Directions (1-10): Read the following passage and answer the following questions accordingly.

In 1859, when Charles Darwin presented his famed theory of evolution by natural selection, inherent in its essence was the abiding notion of survival of the fittest. To evolve, compete and do better has been the cornerstone of the survival of any species. This has also helped ensure that countries and societies have created an era that is prosperous and (largely) peaceful than at any other time in history. Innovation, progressive **disruption** and the effective use of intellectual property are the new tools of the economy this century. For examples, one only has to look at Israel or Singapore. In the 21st century, they are clear leaders on their strengths in the fields of scientific, industrial and financial innovations. Hence the lessons for emerging markets are clear — the need to innovate and compete globally.

India's case has been a success story of sorts. From a country that was hardly acknowledged, to becoming a case study in economic reforms, it has done much to improve the health of the economy and its people. As one of the top growing economies in the world, it now stands at the cusp of leapfrogging from an emerging to a near-advanced economy over the next decade. But going forth, many of the paradigms that have held the Indian economy in good stead may not be efficient in the decades ahead. Equally so, providing access to health care, medical technologies and pharmaceutical products for a billion people is still a challenge, with no clear consensus on the best way forward.

Improving the environment for innovation and enhancing competitiveness, especially in areas such as science and technology and health care, will help **propel** our economic engine of growth and improve the health indices of citizens. In an emerging environment of protectionism and the rise of the anti-globalization movement, the need to innovate and compete will become

even more important. Advanced western economies, with low single-digit growth rates, are now resorting to protectionist measures. What is troubling is that matching voices are being heard within emerging economies like India. The more **prudent** step would be to enhance capabilities to innovate rather than merely adopt as this changing global mood becomes more perverse. The answer lies in creating a knowledge and information technology-based, intellectual property-focused and entrepreneurially-led economy — or a KITE economy as it were.

In the field of health, pharmaceuticals and scientific research, the need to protect the intellectual property of all entities is crucial. We need a multi-fold increase in scientific capabilities and infrastructure as well as a regulatory framework to enhance clinical research. Over the past decade, clinical research, especially clinical trials, has moved away from India to countries like China owing to policy decisions. Reversing this will not only help India to **innovate** and compete with the rest of the world but also create jobs across the value chain. Similarly, taking meaningful steps to be in step with international best practices, remove barriers and enhance predictability in the patents regimes will help grow the innovation paradigm in health access, pharmaceutical developments and medical device manufacturing in India. In order to do this, structural reforms and increased funding of regulatory agencies are a must. India needs to improve competitiveness through a paradigm shift in innovation and intellectual property rights. Its scientists, technology entrepreneurs and health evangelists need to have a protective umbrella of a strong patent regime that helps them innovate without having to look over their shoulders. Steps to make India a KITE leader in health are the need of the hour. So, while the government attempts more structural reforms, it would do well to ensure that the overall competitiveness of the health sector improves as it **embarks** on an ambitious mission to provide quality health care to more than a billion citizens.

- Why do the emerging markets need to innovate and compete globally?
 - For providing a multifold increase in scientific capabilities.
 - To provide reforms and global funds to individual investors.
 - As some nations are clear leaders in terms of scientific, financial and industrial innovations.
 - For the ineffective use of intellectual property.
 - None of these.
- What is the emerging environment mentioned that makes competition even more important?
 - Entrepreneurially-led economy based environment.
 - Adoption of structural reforms.
 - Knowledge and information technology-based environment.
 - Protectionism and the rise of the anti-globalization movement.
 - None of these.
- How can India compete with rest of the world in terms of clinical research?
 - By enhancing research and developing on new techniques.
 - Reversing the research outflow of India to China.
 - Through shift in the issues that are taken up for mobilization.
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Both (a) and (c).
- What is/are the steps required to grow the innovation paradigm in health access and medical device manufacturing in India?
 - Improve competitiveness through a paradigm shift in innovation.
 - Structural Reforms
 - Increased funding of regulatory agencies.
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - All (a), (b) and (c)
- Which of the statements is definitely false according to the passage?
 - Economic engine of growth will be propelled through improvement of the environment for innovation.
 - We need a multi-fold increase in scientific capabilities and infrastructure as well as a regulatory framework to enhance clinical research.
 - Every species wants to evolve, compete and do better for survival.
 - Advanced western economies with high growth rates are resorting to protectionist measures.
 - None of these.

Directions (6-8): Certain words have been given in bold in the passage. Find the word or the pair of words from the given options which is/are the synonym of the given bold word.

6. **Disruption**

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| (i) Commotion | (ii) Cede | |
| (iii) Turmoil | (iv) Diminution | |
| (a) ii-iii | (b) ii-iv | (c) i-iii |
| (d) iii-iv | (e) only ii | |

7. **Propel**

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| (i) Deter | (ii) Impel | |
| (iii) Stifle | (iv) Hinder | |
| (a) ii-iv | (b) ii-iii | (c) i-ii |
| (d) Only (ii) | (e) i-iii | |

8. **Prudent**

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| (i) Chary | (ii) Didactic | |
| (iii) Sagacious | (iv) Bugged | |
| (a) ii-iv | (b) i-iii | (c) ii-iii |
| (d) i-ii | (e) iii-iv | |

Directions (9-10): Certain words have been given in bold in the passage. Find the word or the pair of words from the given options which is the antonym of the given bold word.

9. **Innovate**

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| (I) Stagnate | (ii) Commence | |
| (iii) Pioneer | (iv) Impede | |
| (a) i-ii | (b) i-iv | (c) ii-iv |
| (d) ii-iii | (e) iii-iv | |

10. **Embark**

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| (i) Desolate | (ii) Cease | |
| (iii) Culminate | (iv) Concord | |
| (a) ii-iii | (b) i-iv | (c) iii-iv |
| (d) ii-iv | (e) Only i | |

Directions (11-15): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words have been printed in bold to help you locate them, while answering some of the questions.

A major problem of Indian industrial and commercial development was the supply of capital. Until 1850, British capital was shy of Indian adventure. The risks and unknown factors were too great, and **prospects** in other directions too bright. The working capital of the agency house after 1813 at first consisted mainly of the savings of the Company's servants. Their cries of woe when these houses fell as in the crisis of 1831 were loud and poignant. Indian capital was also shy for different reasons. It needed to acquire confidence in the new regime, and outside the presidency towns, to acquire confidence in the new regime, and outside the presidency towns, to acquire the habit of investment. Investment for large scale production for 'enabling' works like railways was an

unfamiliar and suspected practice. Thus, the first big development came when European capital was **coaxed** into the country by government guarantees or went of its own free will to develop industries with which it was already familiar as in the case of jute or coal. Indian capital followed where it was in touch with European practice as in Bombay (Mumbai) and dealing with familiar products like cotton. These considerations throw into all the greater relief the achievement of the Tata's in developing iron and steel. Thus, the major part of the capital provided was British which a steadily increasing Indian proportion from 1900. As late as 1931-32 the capital of companies registered abroad was nearly four times that of companies registered in India. But this is not an exact guide because it leaves out of account the stock in British companies held by Indians, as well as government stocks.

Speaking plainly, it may be said that the capital of the cotton industry was mainly Indian, that of the iron and steel industry entirely so, that of the jute industry about half and half, while the coal and plantation industries were mainly British, together with that used for the building of railways, irrigation, and other public works. Management in the cotton and steel industries was mainly Indian though European technicians were freely employed, that of the jute, coal, and the plantation industries being European, the jute men in particular being Scotch. Their capital, apart of course from government enterprise, operated thorough joint-stock companies and managing agencies. The latter arose through the convenience found by bodies of capitalists seeking to develop some new activities and lacking any Indian experience, of operating through local agents. It arose in the period after 1813 when private merchants took over the trade formerly monopolized by the Company. The money world be found in Britain to promote a tea garden, a coal mine, or a jute mill, but the management would be **confided** to a firm already on the spot. The managing agency was the hyphen connecting capital with experience and local knowledge.

Until 1914 the policy of the government continued in the main to be one of 'enabling' private capital and enterprise to develop the country. Direct promotion was confined to public utilities like canals and railways. The line between enabling and interfering action became distinctly blurred, however, in the case of the cotton industry and there was a tendency for enabling action to pass over into the positive promotion of particular projects. This was most noticeable in the time of Lord Curzon with his establishment of an imperial department of agriculture with a research station at Pusa and a department of commerce and industry presided over by a sixth member of the Viceroy's Council. The First World

War began the transition to a new period of active promotion and positive support. As the conflict lengthened there arose a demand for Indian manufactured goods. India failed to take full advantage of this opportunity, partly because of uncertainty as to the future and partly because the means for sudden expansion were lacking. The outcome of this situation was the appointment of an industrial commission in 1916, under pressure from London. The commission criticized the unequal development of Indian industry which had led to the missing of her, war opportunity. A much closer co-operation with industry was planned through provincial departments of industry. Increased technical training and technical assistance to industry was proposed while it was suggested that the central government should set up a stores department which should aim at making India self-sufficing in this respect. The commission's report was only partially implemented, but a stores department and provincial industrial departments were created and something was done towards promoting technical assistance. The importance of the report and its aftermath was that it marked the transition from the conception of Indian economy in broadly colonial terms with freedom for private enterprise to the conception of India as an **autonomous** economic unit.

- (a) The major investors in Indian enterprises were British and they had missed out on an opportunity.
- (b) The war had created a huge demand for industrial goods.
- (c) The British government wanted economic development of the country as India was strategic economically in the war.
- (d) The development of Indian economy was required for contributing towards the war effort.
- (e) The desire to see India as self-sufficient in technical expertise.
14. During the early twentieth century, Indians were restricted to making investment in stocks of companies that were necessarily listed in India. This was done with the aim of confining Indian capital to India so that it could not compete with British capital.
- (a) Definitely true as inferred from the passage.
- (b) It was true on a selective case by case basis.
- (c) This was the fact during the early part of the British rule.
- (d) This was true in the later part of the British rule.
- (e) No evidence to support the same is given in the passage.

15. From the passage it can be inferred that during the early part of twentieth century, starting a greenfield project was more difficult for an Indian capitalist than for an European.
- (a) Definitely true as inferred from the passage.
- (b) It was true on a selective case by case basis.
- (c) No trend of discrimination between the two categories of capitalists can be inferred from the passage.
- (d) Preference was given to British capitalists, buffeted by the fact that the country was under British rule.
- (e) Preference was given to European capitalists.

Directions (16- 20): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

The painter is now free to paint anything he chooses. There are scarcely any **forbidden** subjects, and today everybody is prepared to admit that a painting of some fruit can be as important as a painting of a hero dying. The Impressionists did as much as anybody to win this previously unheard-of freedom for the artist. Yet, by the next generation, painters began to abandon the subject altogether, and began to paint abstract pictures. Today the majority of pictures painted are abstract.

Is there a connection between these two developments? Has art gone abstract because the artist is embarrassed by his freedom? Is it that, because he is free to paint anything, he doesn't know what to paint? Apologists for abstract art often talk of it as the art of maximum freedom. But could this be the freedom of the desert island? It would take too long to answer these questions properly. I believe there is a connection. Many things have **encouraged** the development of abstract art. Among them has been the artists' wish to avoid the difficulties of finding subjects when all subjects are equally possible.

I raise the matter now because I want to draw attention to the fact that the painter's choice of a subject is a far more complicated question than it would at first seem. A subject does not start with what is put in front of the easel or with something which the painter happens to remember. A subject starts with the painter deciding he would like to paint such-and-such because for some reason or other he finds it meaningful. A subject begins when the artist selects something for special mention. (What makes it special or meaningful may seem to the artist to be purely visual its colours or its form.) When the subject has been selected, the function of the painting itself is to communicate and justify the significance of that selection.

It is often said today that subject matter is unimportant. But this is only a reaction against the excessively literary and moralistic interpretation of subject matter in the nineteenth century. In truth the subject is literally the beginning and end of a painting. The painting begins with a selection (I will paint this and not everything else in the world); it is finished when that selection is justified (now you can see all that I saw and felt in this and how it is more than merely itself).

Thus, for a painting to succeed it is essential that the painter and his public agree about what is significant. The subject may have a personal meaning for the painter or individual spectator; but there must also be the possibility of their agreement on its general meaning. It is at this point that the culture of the society and period in question **precedes** the artist and his art. Renaissance art would have meant nothing to the Aztecs and vice versa. If, to some extent, a few intellectuals can appreciate them both today it is because their culture is an historical one: its inspiration is history and therefore it can include within itself, in principle if not in every particular, all known developments to date.

When a culture is secure and certain of its values, it presents its artists with subjects. The general agreement about what is significant is so well established that the significance of a particular subject **accrues** and becomes traditional. This is true, for instance, of reeds and water in

China, of the nude body in Renaissance, of the animal in Africa. Furthermore, in such cultures the artist is unlikely to be a free agent: he will be employed for the sake of particular subjects, and the problem, as we have just described it, will not occur to him.

When a culture is in a state of disintegration or transition the freedom of the artist increases—but the question of subject matter becomes problematic for him: he, himself, has to choose for society. This was at the basis of all the increasing crises in European art during the nineteenth century. It is too often forgotten how many of the art scandals of that time were provoked by the choice of subject (Gericault, Courbet, Daumier, Degas, Lautrec, Van Gogh, etc.).

By the end of the nineteenth century there were, roughly speaking, two ways in which the painter could meet this challenge of deciding what to paint and so choosing for society. Either he identified himself with the people and so allowed their lives to dictate his subjects to him; or he had to find his subjects within himself as painter. By people I mean everybody except the bourgeoisie. Many painters did of course work for the bourgeoisie according to their copy-book of approved subjects, but all of them, filling the Salon and the Royal Academy year after year, are now forgotten, buried under the hypocrisy of those they served so sincerely.

16. When a culture is insecure, the painter chooses his subject on the basis of:

- (a) The prevalent style in the society of his time.
- (b) Its meaningfulness to the painter.
- (c) What is put in front of the easel.
- (d) Past experience and memory of the painter.
- (e) All of the above.

17. In the sentence, "I believe there is a connection" (second paragraph), what two developments is the author referring to?

- (a) Painters using a dying hero and using a fruit as a subject of painting.
- (b) Growing success of painters and an increase in abstract forms.
- (c) Artists gaining freedom to choose subjects and abandoning subjects altogether.
- (d) Rise of Impressionists and an increase in abstract forms.
- (e) All of the above

18. Which of the following is NOT necessarily among the attributes needed for a painter to succeed:

- (a) The painter and his public agree on what is significant.
- (b) The painting is able to communicate and justify the significance of its subject selection.

(c) The subject has a personal meaning for the painter.

(d) The painting of subjects is inspired by historical developments.

(e) None of these

19. In the context of the passage, which of the following statements would NOT be true?

- (a) Painters decided subjects based on what they remembered from their own lives.
- (b) Painters of reeds and water in China faced no serious problem of choosing a subject.
- (c) The choice of subject was a source of scandals in nineteenth century European art.
- (d) Agreement on the general meaning of a painting is influenced by culture and historical context.
- (e) All of the above

20. Which of the following views is taken by the author?

- (a) The more insecure a culture, the greater the freedom of the artist.
- (b) The more secure a culture, the greater the freedom of the artist.
- (c) The more secure a culture, more difficult the choice of subject.
- (d) The more insecure a culture, the less significant the choice of the subject.
- (e) None of the above.

Directions (21- 30): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Last week, US President Donald Trump announced America's exit from the Iran nuclear deal—formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The other signatories to the deal—the UK, France, Germany, Russia and China—V of staying in the deal. If the JCPOA **unravels**, it will have consequences for the entire world, including India. Iran is India's third largest oil supplier and serves as India's link to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Trump had three main problems with JCPOA: a) The deal does not have binding restrictions on Iran's ballistic missile programme; b) many of the restrictions have sunset clauses; and c) the deal does nothing to prevent Iranian sponsorship of terrorism in its region.

On 30 April, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had brought to light Iranian nuclear weapons development archives. But, ironically, those documents could have been used, as Robert Einhorn of the Brookings Institution has suggested, to plug JCPOA's gaps. If the archives contain solid proof of Iranian plans to mount a nuclear warhead on a ballistic missile, it would have **given teeth** to Trump's efforts to contain Iran's ballistic missile development effort. But, for that, Trump had to

sincerely **abide by** the JCPOA until the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had established the links between Iran's extant ballistic missiles programme and its previous plans to develop nuclear weapons. On the contrary, Trump has been running a long, prejudiced campaign against the JCPOA and **has been given** more than an impression that he just needed an excuse to exit the deal.

Other participants of the JCPOA believe that the terms of the sunset clauses could have been extended in negotiations with Iran. But that would have also been possible only if the deal was adhered to by all parties. Trump and other JCPOA opponents argue that lifting sanctions incentivised Iran to step up terrorist and destabilizing activities in West Asia. They may not be entirely wrong but the quest for a perfect deal can equally be a credible path to an Iran with a nuclear bomb. What will happen now? It depends on how effective the reimposed sanctions on Iran will be. If Europe, along with Russia and China, refuses to play ball with the US, the sanctions regime will be ineffective. In that case, Iran will not suffer much and the US will not have much leverage—other than threat of military action—to stop the Iranian bomb. Alternatively, the US can't **force** make the sanctions effective by threatening secondary sanctions against countries doing business with Iran. European businesses and banks cannot even contemplate being shut out of the US. China too knows from previous experience of dealing with both Iran and North Korea that American sanctions can indeed bite. Already reeling under sanctions imposed by the West, Russia will not have much to offer Iran.

Even if the sanctions are effective, it does not necessarily mean that Iran will come back to the table willing to accept harsher restrictions. Under siege, Iran may instead decide to go down the path of acquiring the nuclear bomb. Seeing how North Korea's acquisition of the nuclear bomb has increased its bargaining power may just act as a motivator. The Trump administration may be secretly hoping that sanctions will lead to a regime collapse in Iran. This is an idea **fraught** with danger. A regime collapse risks a more hardline section in Iran gaining power. The new rulers may choose to double down on the nuclear weapons programme and expand regional influence. After studying other examples of nuclear proliferation, including that of North Korea.

Given India's dependence on Iran for oil and connectivity, as mentioned earlier, it is easy to overstate the implications of JCPOA's death, if that occurs. India has many other oil suppliers ready to move in if imports from Iran get disrupted. Reimposition of sanctions may even make Iran offer oil on favourable terms to India. In any case, the Indian system has gone through this before—in the run-up to JCPOA negotiations.

21. What was the impact of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's revelation?

- (a) It brought an end to the dispute among the countries of JCPOA.
- (b) It triggered the US' exit from the JCPOA
- (c) It bridged the gap between U.S. and Iran
- (d) It gave a fresh impetus to Trump's efforts to contain Iran's ballistic missile development effort
- (e) All of the above

22. Which of the following words is most similar to "**given teeth**" as given in bold in the passage?

- (a) Constrain (b) Baffle (c) Succour
- (d) Grim (e) Delay

23. What will make the sanctions regime on Iran effective?

- (a) Acceptance of the restrictions by Iran.
- (b) Consent by the countries like Russia and China.
- (c) Prohibition of doing business by other countries in U.S.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) All are correct

24. According to the passage, what may be the consequence(s) of sanctions in Iran?

- (I) acquirement of more nuclear weapons.
- (II) collapse of Iran's economy.
- (III) expansion of regional influence.
- (a) Only (I) (b) Only (II)
- (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) Both (I) and (II)
- (e) All are correct

25. According to the passage, what will be the impact of sanctioning by U.S. on India?

- (I) India's economy will suffer.
- (II) Import of oil will be easily available by Iran.
- (III) India will divert its root of import of oil to other countries.
- (a) Only (I) (b) Only (II)
- (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) Both (I) and (II)
- (e) All are correct

Direction (26): A phrase "**has been given**" given in the passage is highlighted which may or may not contain grammatical error. There are five alternatives given below, one of which may replace the existing highlighted part to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Choose the most appropriate alternative as your answer. If the phrase is grammatically correct, as given, and doesn't require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No correction required" as your answer.

- (a) has been giving (b) has given
- (c) has being giving (d) had given
- (e) No correction required

Direction (27-28): Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the most similar meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

27. Unravel

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| (I) disintegrate | (II) slump |
| (III) terminate | (IV) collapse |
| (a) Only (III) | |
| (b) Only (II) and (IV) | |
| (c) Only (I), (II) and (III) | |
| (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) All are correct | |

28. Perforce

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| (I) sedate | (II) predicament |
| (III) fragility | (IV) collude |
| (a) Only (I) | |
| (b) Only (II) and (IV) | |
| (c) Only (I), (III) and (III) | |
| (d) Only (II), (I) and (IV) | |
| (e) None of them | |

Direction (29- 30): Which of the following alternatives among the five options provides the most opposite meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage?

29. Fraught

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| (I) gullible | (II) repose |
| (III) pragmatic | (IV) meticulous |
| (a) Only (II) | |
| (b) Only (I) and (IV) | |
| (c) Only (II), (III) and (III) | |
| (d) Only (II), (I) and (IV) | |
| (e) None of them | |

30. Abide by

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| (I) spurn | (II) vaunt |
| (III) nefarious | (IV) flout |
| (a) Only (II) | |
| (b) Only (I) and (IV) | |
| (c) Only (II), (III) and (III) | |
| (d) Only (II), (I) and (IV) | |
| (e) None of them | |

Solutions

- (c)**; Option (c) is the appropriate choice. Refer to paragraph 1 where it is given innovation, progressive disruption and the effective use of intellectual property are the new tools of the economy this century. For this the author has given examples of Israel and Singapore. In the 21st century, they are clear leaders on their strengths in the fields of scientific, industrial and financial innovations. Hence the lessons for emerging markets are clear — the need to innovate and compete globally.
- (d)**; Option (d) is the suitable choice. Refer to paragraph 3 where the text is quoted as “In an emerging environment of protectionism and the rise of the anti-globalization movement, the need to innovate and compete will become even more important.”
- (d)**; Only option (d) is the correct choice. Refer to last paragraph where it is given that over the past decade, clinical research, especially clinical trials, has moved away from India to countries like China owing to policy decisions. Reversing this will not only help India to innovate and compete with the rest of the world but also create jobs across the value chain. Furthermore, it is also given that “taking meaningful steps to be in step with international best practices, remove barriers and enhance predictability in the patents regimes will help grow the innovation paradigm in health access, pharmaceutical developments and medical device manufacturing in India.”
- (e)**; Option (e) is the correct choice. The answer can be referred from last paragraph where it is given that structural reforms and increased funding of regulatory agencies are a must in order to grow the innovation paradigm in health access, pharmaceutical developments and medical device manufacturing in India.
- (d)**; Option (d) is the most suitable choice. It is the only statement which is false among all of the given options. Instead this option can be corrected as advanced western economies with low single-digit growth rates are resorting to protectionist measures.
- (c)**; Disruption means disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process. Commotion means disturbance. Turmoil means a violent disturbance. Cede means yield, surrender. Diminution means decrease, reduction.
- (d)**; Propel means drive or push something forwards. Impel means drive, force, or urge (someone) to do something. Stifle means restrain (a reaction) or stop oneself acting on (an emotion). Hinder means make it difficult for (someone) to do something or for (something) to happen.
- (b)**; Prudent means acting with or showing care and thought for the future. Chary means characterized by great caution and wariness.

- Sagacious means wise or shrewd.
Didactic means instructive.
Bugged means to annoy or irritate.
9. (b); Innovate means make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.
Commence means begin.
Pioneer means develop or be the first to use or apply
Stagnate means cease developing.
Impede means delay or prevent (someone or something) by obstructing them; hinder
10. (a); Embark means begin (a course of action).
Cease means to stop.
Culminate means terminate with.
Desolate means to abandon.
Concord means harmony, agreement.
11. (c); Option A is invalid becomes the passage talks about the "supply of capital" not "external capital" (first sentence of the passage). Option B can be inferred from the ninth sentence of the first paragraph.
12. (d); Refer to 1st paragraph of the passage, "Indian capital followed where it was in touch Indian proportion from 1900", hence option (d) is the correct choice for the given question.
13. (e); Refer the fifth sentence onwards of the second paragraph.
14. (e); Only option (e) is correct as no concrete evidence is given in the passage regarding the statement.
15. (c); Refer towards the last part of the first paragraph
16. (b); Refer the first sentence of the second last paragraph "When a culture is in a state of disintegration or transition the freedom of the artist increases-but the question of subject matter becomes problematic for him: he, himself, has to choose for society."
17. (c); Refer the first paragraph of the passage.
18. (a); Refer the first two sentences of the fifth paragraph "Thus, for a painting to succeed it is essential that the painter and his public agree about what is significant. The subject may have a personal meaning for the painter or individual spectator; but there must also be the possibility of their agreement on its general meaning."
19. (a); Refer sixth paragraph for option (b), seventh paragraph for option (c) and last few lines of the fifth paragraph for option (d).

20. (a); Refer the second last paragraph of the passage "he, himself, has to choose for society.....".
21. (b); The first sentence of the second paragraph is about revelation made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding Iranian nuclear weapons development which is the excuse Trump needed to exit from the JCPOA.
Hence option (b) is the most appropriate choice to be made.
All the other options are not the correct explanations.
22. (c); Option (c) is the correct choice for the given question.
Given teeth means to make something powerful; to give something a real effect.
Succour means assistance and support in times of hardship and distress.
23. (b); From third paragraph of the passage, we can infer that the sentence (b) is responsible for making the sanctions on Iran effective. It has been mentioned that if Europe, along with Russia and China do not cooperate with U.S. then sanctions regime will be ineffective.
Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
Refer the lines "If Europe, along with Russia and China, refuses to play ball with the US, the sanctions regime will be ineffective."
24. (e); All the given consequences are correct.
We can conclude from fourth paragraph that the sanctioning by U.S. may lead to doubling down the nuclear weapons programme, expansion of regional influence and regime collapse in Iran.
Hence option (e) is the most correct choice.
Refer the lines "The Trump administration may be secretly hoping that sanctions will lead to a regime collapse in Iran. This is an idea fraught with danger. A regime collapse risks a more hardline section in Iran gaining power. The new rulers may choose to double down on the nuclear weapons programme and expand regional influence."
25. (b); Refer the last paragraph of the passage in which it is clearly stated that the reimposing of the sanctions will make Iran offer oil on favourable terms to India. Hence only option (b) will be correct.
Refer the line "India has many other oil suppliers ready to move in if imports from Iran get disrupted. Reimposition of sanctions may even make Iran offer oil on favourable terms to India."

26. (b); 'has given' is the correct phrase to be replaced that is delivering the correct meaning to the sentence.

In this sentence, Trump's efforts to exit the deal has been mentioned. Hence, the sentence is talking about the incident of present as used in the first part of the sentence 'has been running'. Hence 'had' will not be used.

'Has been' is used to express something that has begun in the past and is continuing or progressing till present. In the sentence, a complete action is mentioned that is Trump has already given his impression to exit the deal. Therefore, 'has' will be used.

'has been given' used in the sentence is the passive voice which is also incorrect.

Hence option (b) will be the most appropriate choice.

27. (e); Unravel means become undone.

Slump means sit, lean, or fall heavily and limply.

Disintegrate means break up into small parts as the result of impact or decay.

Hence all the words are similar in meaning with unravel.

28. (e); Perforce means used to express necessity or inevitability.

None of the given words is similar in meaning with Perforce.

Fragility means the quality of being easily broken or damaged.

Collude means come to a secret understanding.

Predicament means a difficult, unpleasant situation.

Sedate means calm, dignified and unhurried.

29. (a); Fraught means causing or affected by anxiety or stress. Hence it has opposite meaning as repose.

Meticulous means showing great attention or careful.

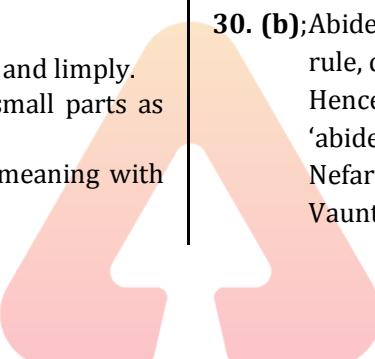
Gullible means easily persuaded to believe something.

30. (b); Abide means accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).

Hence spurn and flout are opposite in meaning as 'abide by'.

Nefarious means wicked or criminal.

Vaunt means boast about or praise.



adda 247

...ବିଜ୍ଞାନିକ...
...ବିଜ୍ଞାନିକ...



STUDY TIPS

In such questions few sentences are provided followed by three probable starters that may be used to form a single coherent sentence using both the statements without altering the context of the sentences. The best way to solve such questions is by understanding the relation between both the sentences such as whether they are stating cause and effect or both are effects or causes. Once the relation is derived one must choose the grammatically correct starter to frame the sentence as their answer choice. It should be kept in mind that the context of the sentences is not amended.

Practice Exercise Based on New Pattern

Direction (1-30): Select the phrase/connector (STARTERS) from the given three options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.

1. (I) The new timed finishing feature will undoubtedly be the biggest adjustment in playing FIFA.
(II) It gives the option to shoot/head the ball better by utilising a double tap of circle in order to generate more power, swerve and accuracy.
 - (i) The new timed finishing feature gives the...
 - (ii) The option to shoot/head...
 - (iii) The biggest adjustment...
 - (a) Only (II)
 - (b) Both (I) and (III)
 - (c) only (III)
 - (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) None of these
 2. (I) Medical student Josh Guild realized that infections continue to remain problematic following surgery in the developing world.
(II) Nurses receive little training to prevent the infections post-surgery.
 - (i) The reason that infections continue...
 - (ii) Since nurses receive little training...
 - (iii) Due to the little training...
 - (a) Only (II)
 - (b) Both (I) and (III)
 - (c) only (III)
 - (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) None of these
 3. (I) While there is scope to improve the FRL's operational aspects,
(II) More substantive changes to the framework should be approached as part of a comprehensive plan.
 - (i) Realizing that while there...
 - (ii) In the view of the fact that there is...
 - (iii) In the knowledge of scope...
 - (a) Both (I) and (II)
 - (b) Both (I) and (III)
 - (c) only (III)
 - (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) None of these

4. (I) CBSE schools have decided to cut short the Onam holidays to compensate for the working days lost due to heavy rain.

(II) The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has criticized CBSE schools for their decision.

(i) Reviewing the decision of...

(ii) Owing to heavy rain, the decision of...

(iii) The decision of CBSE schools...

(a) Both (I) and (II) (b) Only (iii)

(c) Both (II) and (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)

(e) None of these

5. (I) A lot of contestants in every season, even the most memorable ones can end up getting buried within the large franchise.

(II) A lot of contestants have done what they can to cement their place in Bachelor Nation history.

(i) Nonetheless, a lot of contestants have done...

(ii) In contempt of a lot of contestants in every....

(iii) Even though a lot of contestants have...

(a) Both (I) and (III)

(b) Only (iii)

(c) Both (II) and (III)

(d) All (I), (II) and (III)

(e) None of these

6. (I) The surface of our planet appears to be firm and stationary.

(II) There is convincing evidence that the materials that form the solid rock on the surface of the earth are moving.

(i) Even though the surface of our planet...

(ii) However, the evidence is convincing...

(iii) Notwithstanding that the surface...

(a) only (i)

(b) only (ii)

(c) both (i) and (iii)

(d) both (ii) and (iii)

(e) none of these

7. (I) the implementation rules of the program describe predefined criteria for evaluation of projects.
 (II) the quality of project proposals is evaluated by the independent evaluators.
 (i) In line with the implementation rules of...
 (ii) In accordance with the implementation rules...
 (iii) Complying the implementation rules...
 (a) only (iii)
 (b) only (ii)
 (c) both (i) and (ii)
 (d) both (ii) and (iii)
 (e) All of these
8. (I) Theresa May won the general election in 2017.
 (II) she has been forced to reshuffle her Cabinet a number of times amid a number of high profile resignations.
 (i) Since Theresa May won...
 (ii) Owing to the fact that Theresa May...
 (iii) While Theresa May won the...
 (a) only (iii) (b) only (ii)
 (c) both (i) and (iii) (d) both (i) and (ii)
 (e) All of these
9. (I) It's a case where there are significant adverse effects and an offender who continually ignores the council's requests.
 (II) This has been a difficult and significant case that the council has been working on for a number of years
 (i) However, it's a case where...
 (ii) since an offender who...
 (iii) Whereas this has been difficult...
 (a) only (i) (b) only (ii)
 (c) both (i) and (iii) (d) both (ii) and (iii)
 (e) none of these
10. (I) Most of the players of Eagles received their rings during a ceremony on Wednesday.
 (II) The Eagles made sure Dorenbos was remembered and gave him a ring on Thursday.
 (i) Even though most of...
 (ii) As the Eagles made sure...
 (iii) While most of the player...
 (a) only (i) (b) only (ii)
 (c) both (i) and (iii) (d) both (ii) and (iii)
 (e) none of these
11. (I) Trump's desire to improve relations with Russia is analyzed by the editorial.
 (II) The editorial pointed out that Trump values strength and attaches importance to military strength especially nuclear strength.
 (i) Analysing Trump's desire to...
 (ii) The editorial analyzed...
 (iii) Trump values strength and...
- (a) Both (I) and (II)
 (b) Both (I) and (III)
 (c) only (III)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
12. (I) The ministry has proposed to cap royalty payments in the use of trade mark and brand names.
 (II) The ministry has proposed to cap royalty payments at 1 per cent of sales and 2 per cent of exports of an entity.
 (i) With a view for trade mark to...
 (ii) Proposed to cap royalty payments in the use of...
 (iii) With regard to the use of...
 (a) Both (I) and (II)
 (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (III)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
13. (I) The key factor that is boosting the level of adoption for Network Access Control solutions includes rising security issues.
 (II) Security issues are rising due to unwanted devices or unauthorized users that initiates network breaches.
 (i) Owing to unwanted...
 (ii) Because of unwanted devices...
 (iii) Rising security issues owing to...
 (a) Both (I) and (II)
 (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (III)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
14. (I) Flipkart has been around for more than 10 years now and Amazon for at least five.
 (II) the government's e-commerce policy is almost an afterthought.
 (i) Given how Flipkart...
 (ii) Owing to the fact that Flipkart...
 (iii) Considering Flipkart has...
 (a) Both (I) and (II) (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) only (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
15. (I) the much-reviled education system, introduced by the British has many shortcomings.
 (II) It had been successful in promoting upward mobility on a truly large scale.
 (i) Despite its many shortcomings...
 (ii) However, the much-reviled...
 (iii) In spite of the shortcomings of...
 (a) Both (I) and (II) (b) Both (I) and (III)
 (c) only (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these

- 16.** (1) India had in the past always hesitated to impose its will and intentions on SAARC.
 (2) India did not wish to be seen as the Big Brother of the region that seeks to dominate smaller nations.
 (I) As India did not wish to...
 (II) Considering that India did not...
 (III) Despite imposing its will and...
 (a) Only (II) (b) Both (I) and (II)
 (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) Only (I)
 (e) All (I), (II) and (III)
- 17.** (1) Oil prices back up to over US\$70 per barrel.
 (2) The economic winds are favorable for making the necessary tough reforms for Malaysia, who is a net energy exporter.
 (I) Seeing that oil prices back up...
 (II) With oil prices back up to...
 (III) Being a net energy exporter, oil prices...
 (a) Only (I) (b) Both (II) and (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II) (d) Only (III)
 (e) All (I), (II) and (III)
- 18.** (1) The CISF has handled the security duties at some important airports for quite a few years.
 (2) The CISF has acquired much experience, and hopefully a degree of expertise too, in the specialised task.
 (I) Despite handling the security...
 (II) Having handled the security duties...
 (III) In a bid to acquire much experience...
 (a) Only (I) (b) Only (II)
 (c) Both (I) and (III) (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) All (I), (II) and (III)
- 19.** (1) We have more schools, more classrooms, more playgrounds, better infrastructure, better facilities and services, more teachers, more training, more students in the schools in keeping with the parameters laid down in the Right to Education Act, 2009.
 (2) We don't have quality and class in our education system.
 (I) Since we have more schools...
 (II) Even though we have more schools...
 (III) Despite having more schools....
 (a) Only (I) (b) Both (I) and (II)
 (c) Only (III) (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) All (I), (II) and (III)
- 20.** (1) The subjective interpretive reasoning cannot be formulated in mathematical ways.
 (2) It seems to me that logic should be unique and hence quantifiable.
 (I) While the subjective interpretive...
 (II) The formulation of mathematical and...
 (III) That logic of mathematical ways...
 (a) Only (I) (b) Only (II)
 (c) Both (I) and (III) (d) Both (I) and (II)
 (e) All (I), (II) and (III)
- 21.** (I) There has been a legacy of stock market scams through the 1990s.
 (II) Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) impulse has been to protect retail investors at all cost.
 (i) Owing to a legacy...
 (ii) Taking into account a legacy...
 (iii) Considering a legacy of...
 (a) Only (III) (b) Only (I)
 (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
- 22.** (I) Companies were providing more innovative benefits to attract employees.
 (II) Employees fell back on bouquets or fruit baskets when they went through a hard time.
 (i) Even though companies were...
 (ii) Despite the fact that companies...
 (iii) Regardless of employees falling back on...
 (a) Only (III) (b) Only (I)
 (c) Both (I) and (II) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
- 23.** (I) You may prefer any kind of coffee to drink, including the likes of decaf or instant coffee, coffee-drinkers.
 (II) Coffee drinkers who seem addicted to drinking several cups of coffee a day fare better health-wise in the long run.
 (i) Regardless of the kind of coffee you prefer...
 (ii) Even though coffee drinkers who seem...
 (iii) Irrespective of the kind of...
 (a) Both (I) and (III) (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
- 24.** (I) Make in India exposed weak links in what passed off as manufacturing.
 (II) The technology shift from 3G to 4G caught the Indian manufacturers unprepared.
 (i) As long as the technology shift...
 (ii) While Make in India...
 (iii) Although Make in India exposed...
 (a) Both (I) and (III) (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these
- 25.** (I) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) strengthens creditors' rights, which can go a long way in resolving the current bad loans crisis in banking.
 (II) It lends transparency and predictability to the resolution process itself.
 (i) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) not only...
 (ii) Lending transparency and predictability...
 (iii) Along with strengthening creditors' rights...
 (a) Both (I) and (III) (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (II) and (III) (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) None of these

26. (I) Vigorous governmental intervention into curbing the lynching menace is sought in an incisive order.
 (II) the Supreme Court has struck a powerful blow which serves as a model for the political class to follow suit.
 (i) In an incisive order that sought...
 (ii) A model for the political class...
 (iii) Curbing and lynching menace...
 (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
27. (I) Police implicate innocents in crimes or are unable to stop crimes from happening and courts take an inordinately long time to deliver justice.
 (II) This is when the seeds of vigilantism are sown.
 (i) The seeds of vigilantism are sown after police implicate...
 (ii) While police implicate innocents...
 (iii) when police implicate...
 (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
28. (I) Schnatter remains on the board and still owns about 30% of the company's shares.
 (II) Schnatter resigned as chairman this month and no longer holds a formal management role.
 (i) Ensuring Schnatter resigned as...
 (ii) Though Schnatter resigned as chairman...
- (iii) Despite the fact Schnatter resigned as chairman...
 (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
29. (I) The district consolidation of a number of Manitoba Hydro buildings occurred a few years ago.
 (II) The response time to power outages and other interruptions has improved by an average of 10 minutes in the region.
 (i) Since the district consolidation...
 (ii) Owing to the district...
 (iii) Due to the district consolidation...
 (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (III) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
30. (I) There is a criticism of the changes to the RTI Act that the Centre wants to bring need nuance.
 (II) The underlying concern of those protesting the changes is merited.
 (i) Even though the underlying concern...
 (ii) Though the criticism of the...
 (iii) Although the criticism with the changes...
 (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Only (II) is correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct

Solutions

1. **(b);** Both the starters (i) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
 (i) "The new timed finishing feature that gives the option to shoot/head the ball better by utilising a double tap of circle in order to generate more power, swerve and accuracy will undoubtedly be the biggest adjustment in playing FIFA".
 (iii) "The biggest adjustment in playing FIFA will undoubtedly be the new timed finishing feature which basically gives the option to shoot/head the ball better by utilising a double tap of circle in order to generate more power, swerve and accuracy".
2. **(e);** All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
 (i) The reason that infections continue to remain problematic following surgery in the developing world is that nurses receive little training to prevent them, medical student Josh Guild realized.
 (ii) Since nurses receive little training to prevent infections, the infections continue to remain problematic following surgery in the developing world, medical student Josh Guild realized.
 (iii) Due to the little training received by the nurses to prevent the infections post-surgery, the infections continue to remain problematic following surgery in the developing world, medical student Josh Guild realized.

3. **(a);** Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.
- (i) "Realizing that while there is scope to improve the FRL's operational aspects, more substantive changes to the framework should be approached as part of a comprehensive plan".
- (ii) "In the view of the fact that there is scope to improve the FRL's operational aspects, more substantive changes to the framework should be approached as part of a comprehensive plan".
4. **(c);** Both the starters (ii) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the first starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.
- (ii) Owing to heavy rain, the decision of CBSE schools to cut short the Onam holidays to compensate for the working days lost due to heavy rains has received criticism from the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- (iii) The decision of CBSE schools to cut short the Onam holidays to compensate for the working days lost owing to heavy rain has drawn criticism from the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
5. **(b);** Only (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the first and second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
- (iii) "Even though a lot of contestants have done what they can to cement their place in Bachelor Nation history, a lot of them in every season, even the most memorable ones can end up getting buried within the large franchise."
6. **(c);** Both the starters (i) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.
- (i) Even though the surface of our planet appears to be firm and stationary, there is convincing evidence that the materials that form the solid rock on the surface of the earth are moving.
- (iii) Notwithstanding that the surface of our planet appears to be firm and stationary, there is convincing evidence that the materials that form the solid rock on the surface of the earth are moving.
7. **(e);** All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
- (i) In line with the implementation rules of the program, the quality of project proposals is evaluated by the independent evaluators based on predefined criteria.
- (ii) In accordance with the implementation rules of the program, the quality of project proposals is evaluated by the independent evaluators based on predefined criteria.
- (iii) Complying with the implementation rules of the program which describe the predefined criteria for evaluation, the quality of project proposals is evaluated by the independent evaluators.
8. **(d);** Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.
- (i) Since Theresa May won the general election in 2017 she has been forced to reshuffle her Cabinet a number of times amid a number of high profile resignations.
- (ii) Owing to the fact that Theresa May won the general election in 2017 she has been forced to reshuffle her Cabinet a number of times amid a number of high profile resignations.
9. **(e);** Both the given sentences are individual coherent sentences, independent of each other. Hence, none of the given starters can be used to form a single coherent sentence without altering the meaning of the sentence. Therefore, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.
10. **(a);** Among the three starters, only (I) can give a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given two statements. The other two options will give an inappropriate meaning to the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.
- (i) Even though most of the players received their rings during a ceremony on Wednesday, the Eagles made sure Dorenbos was remembered and gave him a ring on Thursday.

11. (a); Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

- (i) Analysing Trump's desire to improve relations with Russia, the editorial pointed out that Trump values strength and attaches importance to military strength especially nuclear strength.
- (ii) The editorial analyzed Trump's desire to improve relations with Russia and pointed out that Trump values strength and attaches importance to military strength especially nuclear strength.

12. (c); Only the (iii) starter can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the first and second starters as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

- (iii) With regard to the use of the trade mark and brand names, the ministry has proposed to cap royalty payments at 1 per cent of sales and 2 per cent of exports of an entity.

13. (d); All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

- (i) Owing to unwanted devices or unauthorized users that initiates network breaches, security issues are rising which is the key factor in boosting the level of adoption for network access control solutions.
- (ii) Because of unwanted devices or unauthorized users that initiates network breaches, security issues are rising which is the key factor in boosting the level of adoption for network access control solutions.
- (iii) Rising security issues owing to unwanted devices or unauthorized users that initiate network breaches is the key factor that is boosting the level of adoption for Network Access Control solutions.

14. (d); All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

- (i) Given how Flipkart has been around for more than 10 years now and Amazon for at least five, the government's e-commerce policy is almost an afterthought.

(ii) Owing to the fact that Flipkart has been around for more than 10 years now and Amazon for at least five, the government's e-commerce policy is almost an afterthought.

(iii) Considering Flipkart has been around for more than 10 years now and Amazon for at least five, the government's e-commerce policy is almost an afterthought.

15. (a); Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a grammatically correct sentence using the third starter as "in spite" should be followed by the preposition "of". Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

- (i) Despite its many shortcomings, the much reviled-education system, introduced by the British, had been successful in promoting upward mobility on a truly large scale.
- (ii) However, the much reviled- education system, introduced by the British has many shortcomings, it had been successful in promoting upward mobility on a truly large scale.

16. (b); Both the starters (I) and (II) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence respectively without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.

- (I) As India did not wish to be seen as the Big Brother of the region that seeks to dominate smaller nations, it had in the past always hesitated to impose its will and intentions on SAARC.
- (II) Considering that India did not wish to be seen as the Big Brother of the region that seeks to dominate smaller nations, it had in the past always hesitated to impose its will and intentions on SAARC.

17. (c); Both the starters (I) and (II) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence respectively without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

- (I) Seeing that oil prices back up to over US\$70 per barrel, the economic winds are favorable for making the necessary tough reforms for Malaysia, who is a net energy exporter.
- (II) With oil prices back up to over US\$70 per barrel, the economic winds are favorable for making the necessary tough reforms for Malaysia, who is a net energy exporter.

18. (b); Among the three starters, only (II) can give a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given two statements. The other two options will give inappropriate meanings to the sentence. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.

(II) Having handled the security duties at some important airports for quite a few years, the CISF has acquired much experience, and hopefully a degree of expertise too, in the specialised task.

19. (d); Both the starters (II) and (III) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence respectively without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the first starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

(II) Even though we have more schools, more classrooms, more playgrounds, better infrastructure, better facilities and services, more teachers, more training, more students in the schools in keeping with the parameters laid down in the Right to Education Act, 2009, we don't have quality and class in our education system.

(III) Despite having more schools, more classrooms, more playgrounds, better infrastructure, better facilities and services, more teachers, more training, more students in the schools in keeping with the parameters laid down in the Right to Education Act, 2009, we don't have quality and class in our education system.

20. (a); Among the three starters, only (I) can give a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given two statements. The other two options will give inappropriate meanings to the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

(I) While the subjective interpretive reasoning cannot be formulated in mathematical ways, it seems to me that logic should be unique and hence quantifiable.

21. (d); All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

(i) "Owing to a legacy of stock market scams through the 1990s, capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) impulse has been to protect retail investors at all cost."

(ii) "Taking into account a legacy of stock market scams through the 1990s, capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) impulse has been to protect retail investors at all cost."

(iii) "Considering a legacy of stock market scams through the 1990s, capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) impulse has been to protect retail investors at all cost."

22. (c); Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

(i) "Even though companies were providing more innovative benefits to attract employees, they still fell back on bouquets or fruit baskets when workers went through a hard time".

(ii) "Despite the fact that companies were providing more innovative benefits to attract employees, they still fell back on bouquets or fruit baskets when workers went through a hard time".

23. (a); Both the starters (i) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

(i) "Regardless of the kind of coffee you prefer to drink, including the likes of decaf or instant coffee, coffee-drinkers who seem to be addicted to drinking several cups a day fare better health-wise in the long run."

(iii) Irrespective of the kind of coffee you prefer to drink, including the likes of decaf or instant coffee, coffee-drinkers who seem to be addicted to drinking several cups a day fare better health-wise in the long run."

24. (c); Both the starters (ii) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the first starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

(ii) While Make in India exposed weak links in what passed off as manufacturing, the technology shift from 3G to 4G caught the Indian manufacturers unprepared.

(iii) Although Make in India exposed weak links in what passed off as manufacturing, the technology shift from 3G to 4G caught the Indian manufacturers unprepared.

25. (a); Both the starters (i) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

(i) "The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) not only strengthens creditors' rights, which can go a long way in resolving the current bad loans crisis in banking, but also lends transparency and predictability to the resolution process itself".

(iii) "Along with strengthening creditors' rights which can go a long way in resolving the current bad loans crisis in banking, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code also lends transparency and predictability to the resolution process itself".

26. (a); Among the three starters, only (i) can give a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given two statements. The other two options will give an inappropriate meaning to the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

(i) In an incisive order that sought vigorous governmental intervention into curbing the lynching menace, the Supreme Court has struck a powerful blow which serves as a model for the political class to follow suit.

27. (c); Both the starters (i) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

(i) The seeds of vigilantism are sown after police implicate innocents in crimes or are unable to stop crimes from happening and courts take an inordinately long time to deliver justice.

(iii) When police implicate innocents in crimes or are unable to stop crimes from happening and courts take an inordinately long time to deliver justice, the seeds of vigilantism are sown.

28. (d); Both the starters (ii) and (iii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the second starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

(ii) Though Schnatter resigned as chairman this month and no longer holds a formal management role, he remains on the board and still owns about 30% of the company's shares.

(iii) Despite the fact Schnatter resigned as chairman this month and no longer holds a formal management role, he remains on the board and still owns about 30% of the company's shares.

29. (e); All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the meanings of the given two sentences. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

(i) Since the district consolidation of a number of Manitoba Hydro buildings occurred a few years ago, the response time to power outages and other interruptions has improved by an average of 10 minutes in the region.

(ii) Owing to the district consolidation of a number of Manitoba Hydro buildings occurred a few years ago, the response time to power outages and other interruptions has improved by an average of 10 minutes in the region.

(iii) Due to the district consolidation of a number of Manitoba Hydro buildings occurred a few years ago, the response time to power outages and other interruptions has improved by an average of 10 minutes in the region.

30. (b); Among the three starters, only (ii) can give a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given two statements. The other two options will give an inappropriate meaning to the sentence. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.

(ii) Though the criticism of the changes to the RTI Act that the Centre wants to bring need nuance, the underlying concern of those protesting the changes is merited.

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STUDY TIPS

In coherent paragraphs, a passage is split into sentences along with a sentence which was not the part of the passage originally. We have to figure out the sentence which is not conforming to the theme of the passage. The understanding of the subject and a particular view point regarding it is must because the same tone is generally used in a passage. For example, if a passage talks about the adversities of the farmer and one of the sentence is describing the boom in the agricultural sector then that sentence would be the odd one out.

Practice Exercise Based on New Pattern

Directions (1-30): In the following questions few sentences are provided. Identify and mark the sentence which may fail to become the part of the paragraph coherently. In questions where “none of these” is an option and all the sentences are meaningful and logical with the context of the paragraph mark (e) i.e., “none of these” as your answer choice.

1. (a) Man has always pondered on nature and made endeavours to learn from its principles.
(b) Blockchain has the potential to disrupt nearly every industry, starting from financial institutions to manufacturing, education and power.
(c) Aeroplanes were inspired by birds, bullet trains by the kingfisher, sonar by dolphins, and robots were designed to mimic humans themselves.
(d) One such example that has been inspired by microbes and is proving to be a solution for numerous problems is the distributed ledger technology (DLT), popularly known as blockchain
(e) We often tend to look up to nature to find solutions for simple yet complex problems.
2. (a) Economies with a developed agrarian structure, such as the US and China, have recently established private extension services for farmers who produce on a commercially-viable and enduring scale.
(b) Although agriculture contributes only around 17% to the country's GDP, nearly half of India's labour force (47%) works in the agrarian sector.
(c) And amongst those living in rural areas, nearly 69% of the workforce operates in the agricultural sector (according to Census 2011).
(d) With a predominantly rural backbone of the agrarian economy, efforts to improve agricultural labour productivity are needed to raise the living conditions of the majority of the population.

- (e) A working paper by ICRIER demonstrates this specific requirement, and analyses the importance of agricultural research and education, along with extension and training.
3. (a) Petrol prices in India have two components, one is due to global crude oil prices, and one is due to taxes by the Indian government.
(b) Such sharp increases in fuel prices choke economic growth, stoke inflation, hurt consumers and domestic budgets.
(c) Retail prices of petrol and diesel were increased for the ninth straight day, pushing them to record levels despite international crude price being nowhere near the level it was four years ago.
(d) In Delhi, retail petrol and diesel prices were Rs 76.87 a litre and Rs 68.08 a litre respectively.
(e) none of these
4. (a) Traditional social norms have conditioned social conduct for generations and these are coded into the mundane minutiae of language and everyday practice.
(b) State patronage of violation of laws and democratic norms is at the core of impunity.
(c) The promise of democracy is to eradicate such social norms hierarchies and offer equality of opportunity, if not of outcomes.
(d) Traditional social norms in the country have been hierarchical and those at the bottom rungs got a raw deal.
(e) None of these
5. (a) When the desire for a job is fulfilled, it is replaced by the desire for a promotion.
(b) If your bank balance is in lakhs, the next desire will be for it to be in crores.
(c) That which can never be satiated is a desire. When a desire gets fulfilled – it gives birth to many more desires.
(d) When the desire for a house is fulfilled, you will want a bigger house, better furniture, even a bigger car.
(e) None of these

6. (a) Rivers have been the lifeline of all civilisations; no wonder they are considered sacred across cultures.
 (b) When a seeker can honour the sanctity of the environment, then he can experience the same sanctity in his own mind.
 (c) Sanskrit has a beautiful word for water, apa and the word aptha means 'that which is born out of water'. Aptha also means 'the dearest one'. So, it's the same word for both 'the dear one' and 'water'.
 (d) 60-70% of our body is made up of the water element. You need water vapour in the atmosphere; you need certain amount of humidity in the atmosphere. And you need water to drink as a fluid.
 (e) In India, the Ganga symbolises knowledge, Yamuna was known for love stories, Narmada stood for bhakti, knowledge and logic, Saraswati for brilliance and architecture, and India got its name from the Sindhu.
7. (a) Private hospitals use modern and constantly updated medical infrastructure with advanced technology that needs upgrades.
 (b) While their revenues might have increased, importantly, overall profitability margins are rather low. There needs to be a fine balance between world class healthcare and affordability.
 (c) What patients should understand is that provision of high-standard ICU care in India is rather expensive if all international norms are adhered to, but still is markedly lower than that in developed countries, for example the US.
 (d) The Health Department has issued show cause notice to three private medical colleges for violating the fee structure stipulated by the Fee Committee appointed by the government.
 (e) None of these
8. (a) It is painful to see the present condition of education. In the name of education, all sorts of slaveries are nourished.
 (b) The root causes for the ugliness and crippling of humanity are hidden in our education.
 (c) The present education has cut man off from nature and has not been able to give birth to any refinement, to any culture.
 (d) This education system has given birth to unnatural life. Every generation goes on imposing this unnaturalness on the next generation.
 (e) None of these
9. (a) Children learn from adult role models. When they see adults expressing prejudice and bigotry, they think that is the way to be. Our children are innocent and pure at heart, but they learn from our example.
- (b) If we teach them to lie, they will lie. If we teach them to steal, they will steal. If we teach them to hate, they will hate.
 (c) The teacher has been an instrument for many types of exploitations. He is instrumental in spreading many diseases.
 (d) Instead, if we teach them to be loving, truthful and kind, they will be loving truthful and kind.
 (e) From the moment they are born, they are being influenced by the environment. They are learning to speak what they hear, and are learning to act in the manner they see the adults around them acting.
10. (a) While faith is an essential ingredient of any religion, Easter for Christians is not just a matter of faith in an extraordinary event that took place eons ago.
 (b) The economic impact of Christmas has grown steadily over the past few centuries in many regions of the world.
 (c) Easter is the celebration of the living presence of Jesus Christ in the life of the world, the Church and of individuals.
 (d) Easter also called Pascha (Greek, Latin) or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
 (e) Mother Teresa found the suffering Jesus in the poorest of the poor and drew strength from his resurrection celebrated as Easter to do all she did.
11. (a) Witness Uber's bowing to the #DeleteUber social media campaign last year. Part of it is to do with the #MeToo movement.
 (b) Social Media can bring out the worst in the public by enabling risk-free mob mentality and witch hunts.
 (c) But by the same token, it can allow the public to directly punish businesses and business leaders for actions it disagrees with in a manner that simply wasn't possible before.
 (d) Negative market sentiments claimed Uber co-founder Travis Kalanick's scalp last year.
 (e) None of these
12. (a) Others maintain that the increase is not enough, that the government has not delivered on its promise of announcing MSPs that are 50% over cost, as had been recommended by the National Commission on Farmers (Swaminathan Commission).
 (b) Some analysts believe that the increase has been excessive, that it will push up inflation, both directly and also indirectly via the fiscal burden of higher subsidies.
 (c) Cost of production is only one of several considerations factored into the determination of MSPs, such as the estimated demand-supply balance, global prices, etc.

- (d) The recent increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for major kharif crops has reignited the debate about food price policy.
- (e) None of these
- 13.** (a) Since state governments are increasingly raising resources from the bond market, higher issuance can complicate fiscal management.
- (b) The share of market borrowing in the financing of fiscal deficit is expected to top 90% in the current year, compared with about 61% in 2015-16.
- (c) This will enable higher investment and help attain higher sustainable growth.
- (d) The maturity profile of state government bonds shows that redemption pressure has started increasing since the last fiscal.
- (e) none of these
- 14.** (a) As the Lok Sabha debates the vote of no confidence, representatives of farmers from across the country will be marching outside Parliament under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), an umbrella body of 201 farmer organisations.
- (b) Farmers have already passed a vote of no confidence against this government.
- (c) Far from helping the farmers, this government has actually harmed them in their hour of crisis. This is a strong indictment, backed by solid evidence.
- (d) Further, the government has effectively bypassed this law in the land acquisitions done by central agencies like the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and has also allowed State governments to nullify the provisions benefitting the land-owning farmers.
- (e) None of these
- 15.** (a) Already they are present in the form of thermocol, dust and in some cases, they are now used in making fatty oils.
- (b) Government authorities have to understand the importance of the order of Plastic Ban in a nutshell – UP is the largest and the most populated state, plastic is in use in every corner of the state, even in the remotest area. It's been in use for more than 30 years in different forms.
- (c) In winters, poor burn plastic to get some warmth. Gases which emit from this burning are poisonous and directly affect our lungs. In a nutshell, it is the most dangerous man-made material in this world.
- (d) This is the most dangerous aspect of it, because this oil goes directly to the consumer leading to health disaster in many ways.
- (e) None of these
- 16.** (a) State-sponsored Jewish immigration, the “law of return” applicable only to Jews, and the denial of the right to return to Palestinian refugees and their descendants were all products of this latter urge.
- (b) Israel has always struggled to present itself as a typical nation state that belongs to all Israelis regardless of race or religion but also as the homeland of the Jewish people no matter where they live. (c) The dilemma was exacerbated because of the continued occupation of Palestinian territories since 1967 that has led to official projections that soon there will be as many Arabs as Jews in the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.
- (d) This will likely not merely impact their security as an ethnic group but also reduce the clout of the pro-Israel lobby in the American political system.
- (e) None of these
- 17.** (a) The only constant is fast-changing consumer preferences, based on ease of experience, for which companies continuously compete.
- (b) The new big companies too may have uncertain and short lives, until replaced by others.
- (c) There is no fear of failure—global experience shows that around 90% of start-ups fail.
- (d) The last two or three decades of “disruptive innovations” have seen famous companies, like Kodak and dozens of other majors going under to become history, and the gale of new technologies sweeping aside many well-known giants.
- (e) None of these
- 18.** (a) Banks had the lure of CASA deposits (current account and savings account), and assumed that since these funds remained constant in proportion over the longer term, it actually provided the asset liability management (ALM) congruence.
- (b) This led to higher exposures to infra project and other heavy investment projects, which got associated with non-performing assets (NPAs).
- (c) The proposed rule says that all such companies that have a rating of AA and above will performe have to borrow 25% of incremental requirement from the bond market.
- (d) The Indian financial system has evolved over the last two decades or so, which involved the conversion of development finance institutions (DFIs) into universals banks.
- (e) None of these
- 19.** (a) It is amusing to see that in a world where we know so much, where technology is so advanced that varied information is available to a person in split seconds, we still have not been able to discover the mystery of the human brain and what exactly is mind and its full effects on the body.
- (b) The paradigm shift towards treating psychiatry as an important and valuable field is slow, yet the tides are turning in its favor.

- (c) Most medical scientists and pharmaceutical companies are researching on the underlying pathology of mental diseases and treating it.
- (d) The problem is that this trend of over-specialization has led to an undetermined amount of doctors consulting on one patient case.
- (e) None of these
- 20.** (a) They file an online application, which would be reviewed by the facilitation councils, and is also visible to the concerned central ministries, state governments and central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) for proactive actions.
- (b) This facility is gradually gaining popularity, proving to be an asset for the aggrieved MSMEs.
- (c) The data in cases reported on the MSME Samadhan Portal can be seen in the accompanying table.
- (d) The ministry of MSME has launched a specialized portal for facilitating MSMEs to report cases of the delayed payment of bills to draw the attention of their buyers, the facilitation councils and the ministry of MSME.
- (e) None of these.
- 21.** (a) The Armed Forces of some countries have become smaller in number, cost-effective, more lethal and civilianised.
- (b) The right to form associations or unions is a fundamental right under Part III of our Constitution. However, it is not available to every Indian.
- (c) Article 33 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to modify the fundamental rights of the members of the Armed Forces, intelligence services, and those employed in the telecommunication systems of these organisations 'for ensuring the proper discharge of their duties' and 'for the maintenance of discipline among them'.
- (d) The legislations governing the Armed Forces and central police forces restrict the members' fundamental right to form a trade union, to attend or address any political demonstration and to communicate with the press.
- (e) None of these
- 22.** (a) PM Narendra Modi did well to declare that he was not scared to be seen in the company of corporate chieftains.
- (b) The selection process of particular industrialists for vital projects such as building warplanes and aid-funded power plants in other countries should be transparent.
- (c) This false discourse must be abandoned and those who create wealth, produce goods, generate jobs, pay taxes and, in these days of mandated corporate social responsibility, even shoulder many of the governance tasks that rightfully are the responsibility of the state, accorded the respect they are due.
- (d) This comes not a day too soon. With bad loans and flighty industrialists dominating the news, a narrative has once again been building up in which people who run companies are cast as villains.
- (e) none of these
- 23.** (a) Monetary policy, however, is about more than just the current situation: the signaling function of policy is forward looking and is articulated to anchor inflationary expectations at least a year ahead.
- (b) Our own view is that the uncertainty in the current economic environment should tip the scale for a hold on the repo rate and a "wait and watch" neutral stance.
- (c) The RBI implements the monetary policy through open market operations, bank rate policy, reserve system, credit control policy, moral persuasion and through many other instruments.
- (d) The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will have persuasive arguments either for continuing with a second consecutive hike in repo rate or remaining on hold.
- (e) none of these
- 24.** (a) The All India Survey of Higher Education 2016-17 showed continued higher enrolment of women and Muslims in higher education in the country.
- (b) Women's enrolment has shown a 45% increase, from 12 million in 2010-11 to 17.4 million in 2017-18.
- (c) The number of Muslims who are enrolled in higher education institutes has also increased by 37% over the past five years, compared to the increase of 18% across all categories of students.
- (d) In 2001, as per the Sachar report, while Muslims constituted just 6.3% of all graduates across the country—lower than the 8.2% share for SCs/STs—amongst the 20-year-plus population of Muslims, the community's graduates accounted for just 3.6%.
- (e) None of these

25. (a) Therefore, prior to finalising an e-commerce policy government has to make sure that all laws dealing with data, privacy, and digital transactions are consistent.
- (b) Big business is increasingly supposed to be a policy innovator, in addition to its more traditional role of innovator in technology and in business practices.
- (c) An important part of the draft overlaps the recommendations of the BN Srikrishna panel on data protection.
- (d) India's national draft e-commerce policy which was unveiled on Monday gives the first clear sense of the framework government has in mind for the rapidly evolving sector.
- (e) None of these
26. (a) Mr. Purnama, a Christian, narrowly lost the election after a hard-fought campaign in which hardline groups accused him of blasphemy.
- (b) The electoral face-off between Mr. Widodo and Mr. Prabowo comes also against the backdrop of a highly charged gubernatorial race in Jakarta in 2017.
- (c) The incumbent at that time, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, had succeeded Mr. Widodo when he became President in 2014 and was considered his protégé.
- (d) He was subsequently imprisoned on the charge.
- (e) An economic nationalist, he has denied the accusations against him of human rights violations.
27. (a) Sending out the signal that the government is finally recognising the linkages between health care and economic development.
- (b) Political parties have not yet made the right to health a campaign issue, and the National Health Policy does not recommend such a right since it cannot be fulfilled.
- (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on Independence Day that Ayushman Bharat, or the National Health Protection Mission, will be launched formally on September 25.
- (d) Less ethical institutions have been found ordering unnecessary treatments to claim insurance compensation.
- (e) But there is increasing awareness that Ayushman Bharat is unsustainable for a country of 1.3 billion people to rely on household savings to pay for health care.
28. (a) India's stock markets are booming, with the BSE Sensex touching new highs.
- (b) The regulation of securities markets has evolved over the last two and a half decades since the setting up of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, but it is still a work in progress.
- (c) A panel headed by T.K. Viswanathan, a former Lok Sabha Secretary General, has now submitted recommendations to curb illegal practices in the stock market and ensure fair conduct among investors.
- (d) A key recommendation is that the stock market watchdog be granted the power to act directly against "perpetrators of financial statements fraud".
- (e) The newly SEBI Regulations, 2018 limits the number of directorship of a person to eight entities.
29. (a) Given that e-cigarettes are a young technology, they said, it will take time to uncover their ill-effects.
- (b) Writing in the same journal issue, however, another group of researchers advocated the precautionary principle.
- (c) In the American Annual Review of Public Health, in January 2018 a group of researchers argued that e-cigarettes must be viewed from a "harm minimisation" perspective.
- (d) Either way, conflicting evidence makes it a tough call for policymakers.
- (e) Given that combustible cigarettes are more noxious than electronic ones, switching from the former to the latter can only help addicts, they argued.
30. (a) Over the years though, the challenge also assumed physical proportions.
- (b) He played all four Majors and raised hopes of winning two of them, the other being the British Open, where he eventually finished in a tied sixth place.
- (c) In a relative sense, 2018 has been a decent year for Woods.
- (d) When personal issues led to his form dropping a decade ago, it seemed as if what prevented him from returning to his winning ways lay entirely in the mind.
- (e) A recent trend is to produce woods and hybrids that can be adjusted by the player to provide different lofts and other settings.

Solutions

1. **(b)**; All the sentences except for sentence (b) are providing information on how man seeks for answers from nature for all his problems. The sentences form a coherent paragraph in the sequence of aced. However, sentence (b) is providing information on blockchain. Since, option (b) fails to relate coherently with the other sentences, it becomes the most suitable answer choice.
2. **(a)**; After carefully reading the sentences it should be noted that all the sentences except sentence (a) are describing about the position of agriculture sector in Indian economy. However, sentence (a) is mentioning about the impact of agriculture on economies of different developed countries. The sequence of the coherent sentences is thus formed as bcde. Hence, option (a) becomes the most viable answer choice.
3. **(a)**; All the sentences except sentence (a) are describing about the continuous rise of fuel prices. However, sentence (a) is describing the components which formulates the fuel prices for the country. Thus, the sentences can be coherently related in the sequence of cdb. Therefore, option (a) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
4. **(b)**; Among all the given sentences, only sentence (b) fails to connect with the other sentences coherently. The sentences can be logically sequenced as adc, eliminating sentence (b) making it a coherent paragraph. All the coherent sentences are describing about the role of traditional social norms in everyday practice. However, sentence (b) is describing about violation of state and democratic law. Hence, as option (b) fails to find relevance, it becomes the most suitable answer choice.
5. **(e)**; All the sentences together form a coherent paragraph in the sequence cadb and follow the similar theme of the growing desires of an individual. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.
6. **(b)**; All the given sentences except sentence (b) are providing information on the importance of water in the past and present scenario of the world. However, only sentence (b) is describing about the honour and sanctity towards environment as a whole. Therefore, it fails to adhere with the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
7. **(d)**; After carefully reading the sentences it should be noted that all the sentences except sentence (d) are describing about the functioning and financial conditions of private hospitals. However, sentence (d) is mentioning about the notice issued to three medical colleges by Health Department. Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
8. **(e)**; All the sentences together form a coherent paragraph and follow the similar theme of the downfall of education system and its effects on the upcoming generations. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.
9. **(c)**; All the sentences except sentence (c) are describing about the relationship between the parent and the child. The upbringing which a child receives through its parents. However, sentence (c) is describing about the relationship of a child with its teacher. Therefore, option (c) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
10. **(b)**; After carefully reading the sentences it should be noted that all the sentences except sentence (b) are describing about the auspicious occasion of Easter and its influence on several saints inspiring them to follow the philosophies of Jesus Christ. However, sentence (b) is mentioning about the festival of Christmas and its impact on several regions of the world. Hence, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.
11. **(d)**; The sentences can be sequenced as bca to form a coherent paragraph which is describing the powers of social media platform to make or break a business house. However, sentence (d) is specifically mentioning about the case of Uber co-founder, which is irrelevant in context of the coherent paragraph. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

12. (c); The correct sequence of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph is dba, which is describing about the opinions and reactions of analysts on the increase on Minimum Support Prices (MSP). However, sentence (c) is merely mentioning the factors considered while determining of MSPs, thus, it fails to find the relevance with the other sentences. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.

13. (c); The sentences can be sequenced as abd to form a coherent paragraph, which is describing about the state government's borrowings through bond market which may cause difficulties in fiscal management. However, sentence (c) mentions that a solution [This] will enable higher investment, but the solution has not been mentioned in the paragraph which would have acted as a linking sentence to form sentence (c) as a part of coherent paragraph. Hence, option (c) is the most feasible answer choice.

14. (d); The sequence of the paragraph after rearranging the coherent sentences is abc. The paragraph is describing about the protest by farmers against the government policies that fail to protect the farmers in the hour of crisis. However, sentence (d) is not giving any coherence to the paragraph. Therefore, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.

15. (e); All the sentences together form a coherent paragraph in the sequence of badc. The paragraph is describing about the law of plastic ban implemented in the state of UP due to its harmful effects. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.

16. (d); The sentences can be sequenced as bac in the form of coherent paragraph as the paragraph is talking about Israel and its struggle to present itself as a typical nation state but the new law is a departure from the territorial principal and is likely to erode Israel's legitimacy as a nation state. However sentence (d) refers about something that will impact their security and reduce the power of pro-Israel lobby in relation to American political system. This is not mentioned anywhere in the paragraph. Hence option (d) is the most appropriate choice.

17. (c); The coherent paragraph can be formed from the given sentences in the form of dba as the paragraph is based upon the troublesome innovations at have happened in decades in

famous companies and which have swept many other technology giants and only the consumer preference based on the ease of access is changing for which companies continuously compete. On the other hand sentence (c), refers about the fear of failure of the start-ups about which nothing has been mentioned in any line.

18. (c); The sentences can be sequenced as dab except sentence (c). All other sentences are based on the conversion of Indian finance institutions into universal banks and how banks had the lure of CASA deposits and they provided the ALM congruence which led to higher exposure to infra project which got associated with NPA's. The sentence (c) refers about the proposed rule to be applicable on companies which imposes on them a necessity to borrow some percent of incremental requirement from the bond market while the reference about bond market has not been given anywhere in the given passage.

19. (d); The sequence of the paragraph after rearranging the coherent sentences is cba. The paragraph which is formed coherently is describing about the medical scientists and pharmaceutical companies and the underlying pathology of mental diseases and way of treating them. However sentence (d) refers about 'this' trend of over specialization while over specialization has not even been mentioned in the paragraph anywhere which has led to an undetermined amount of doctors consulting on one patient case.

20. (e); All of the sentences are in contextual reference and they form a coherent paragraph i.e. dabc. The coherent paragraph is based on why timely payments to MSME's are crucial. MSMEs have long been facing a problem of delayed realization of their bills and receivables, particularly from large corporate buyers and government organizations.

21. (a); These sentences can be arranged in the sequence of bcd to form a coherent paragraph describing about the rights of citizens regarding the formations of unions and associations. However, article 33 modifies this right for armed forces and intelligence services. Sentence (a) fails to become the part of the coherent paragraph as it is describing about features of armed forces in some countries. Since, sentence (a) doesn't find a logical place in the coherent paragraph, option (a) becomes the most viable answer choice.

- 22. (b);** These sentences can be logically tied in the sequence of adc to form a coherent paragraph. The rearranged coherent paragraph is describing about the tarnished profile of the industrialists which needs to be rectified in the eyes of the society. PM Narendra Modi is helping to achieve this cause. Except for sentence (b) which is describing about the way to select the industrialists, all the other sentences find relevance with each other. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 23. (c);** A coherent paragraph can be formed by arranging the sentences in the logical sequence as dba. The paragraph is describing about the fixation of repo rates by monetary policy committee. It also mentions about the risks involved in stabilization or hiking of the repo rates. However, sentence (c) fails to find a logical place to adhere the theme of the paragraph as, it is merely describing about the instruments of monetary policy. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
- 24. (e);** All the sentences in the sequence of abcd forms a coherent paragraph providing a comparative data of higher education among women, muslims and SCs/STs. Since, all the statements find relevance with each other, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 25. (b);** The sentences can be logically arranged in the sequence of dca. The rearranged coherent paragraph thus provides information regarding the draft formulated about the e-commerce policy. However, sentence (b) is describing about the changes required by big business to flourish which is irrelevant with the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
- 26. (e);** The proper logical order of the above given sentences should be 'bcad' and the given option (e) doesn't fit well in the paragraph. In sentence (e) some person has been called as an 'economic nationalist'. So the predecessor of the sentence should have some personality.
- 27. (d);** the proper logical order of the above given sentences should be 'cabe' and the given option (d) doesn't fit well in the paragraph. In sentence (d) though they have talked about some institutions ordering unnecessary treatments but there is no mention or discussion of the Ayushman Bharat, or the National Health Protection Mission.
- 28. (e);** The proper logical order of the above given sentences should be 'abcd' and the given option (e) doesn't fit well in the paragraph. In sentence (e) it has been mentioned about SEBI's regulation regarding the number of directorship which is irrelevant in the theme of the sentences.
- 29. (d);** The proper logical order of the above given sentences should be 'ceba' and clearly the given option (d) doesn't fit well in the paragraph. In sentence (d) there is a discussion of some evidences that are said to be conflicting but there is nowhere mention of such evidences or conflicts.
- 30. (e);** The proper logical order of the above given sentences should be 'cbda' and clearly the given option (e) doesn't fit well in the paragraph. Sentence (e) is describing about the improvements made in the game for the benefits of the player and hence fails to find relevance with other sentences.

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STUDY TIPS

Error correction is the most important part of banking English. There are lot of changes in the pattern, but this is not something we should be concerned about as the good understanding of the key concepts is the only requirement we need to solve these questions. Aspirants are advised to get a good grip on the topics like adverbs, articles, noun and numbers, verbs, tenses etc. Some of the changes you can expect is that you can be asked to find the correct part instead of an incorrect one.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-5): The following questions consist of a sentence which is divided into three parts which contain grammatical errors in one or more than one part of the sentence. If there is an error in any part(s) of the sentence, find the correct alternative(s) to replace that part(s) from the three options given below each question to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the given sentence is grammatically correct or does not require any correction, choose (e) i.e. no error as your answer.

1. One of the most significant governance reform (I)/ undertaken by the government in recent years (II)/ had been the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) initiative. (III)

- (I) One of the most significant governance reforms
(II) undertaken by the government in recent years
(III) has been the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) initiative
(a) only (I)
(b) only (II)
(c) only (III)
(d) Both (I) and (III)
(e) no error

2. The money she earned from each of the trips (I)/ across the desert were devoted entirely to paying off the loan, but the money she earned working (II)/ at the bank was set aside to purchase supplies until the ranch started paying for itself. (III)

- (I) The money she earned from each of the trips
(II) across the desert was devoted entirely to paying off the loan, but the money she earned working
(III) at the bank was set aside to purchase supplies until the ranch started paying for itself
(a) only (I)
(b) only (II)
(c) only (III)
(d) Both (I) and (II)
(e) no error

3. Once this ball gets rolling, it will speed up and, (I)/ because of it, we will all wake up each morning (II)/ with a few extra spring in our step and sparkle in our eye. (III)

- (I) Once this ball gets rolling, it will speed up and
(II) because of it, we will all wake up each morning
(III) with a little extra spring in our step and sparkle
in our eye
(a) only (I)
(b) Both (II) and (III)
(c) only (III)
(d) only (II)
(e) no error

4. They learned that Chilon was the very quiet man, (I)/ that he never spoke to himself, and that he spent all his time in trying (II)/ to make his country great, strong and happy. (III)

- (I) They learned that Chilon was a very quiet man,
(II) that he never spoke about himself, and that he
spent all his time in trying
(III) to make his country great, strong and happy
(a) only (I)
(b) Both (II) and (III)
(c) only (III)
(d) Both (I) and (II)
(e) no error

5. Air India, which was offered (I)/ along with \$5 billion of its debt, is surviving (II)/ on taxpayer bailouts after losing money for years. (III)

- (I) Air India, who were offered
(II) along with \$5 billion of the debt, is surviving
(III) on taxpayer's bailouts after losing money for
years
(a) only (I)
(b) Both (II) and (III)
(c) only (III)
(d) Both (I) and (II)
(e) no error

Directions (6-10): There are four sentences given in the following question. Find the sentence(s) which is/are grammatically correct and mark your answer choosing the best possible alternative among the five given below each question. If all the sentences are correct, choose (e) as your answer.

6. (I) The involvement of the teaching community is both imperative and effective in limiting the progress of elementary mental health issues into serious psychological hazards.
 (II) The NAM was established and founded at the height of the Cold War and during the collapse of the colonial system spurred by the independence struggles of people belonging to Asia, Africa, Latin America and various other regions of the world.
 (III) The great advantage that India has at the time of Independence was an organised political party and an efficient merit-based bureaucracy.
 (IV) The age-old tussle over scarce resources is nothing new and with land increasingly becoming a scarce resource the world is witnessing an increased struggle for it.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (II) and (IV) are correct
 (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (d) Only (I), (II) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct
7. (I) The long-term dynamics of development and historical experience of other countries indicate that as an economy grows, the share of agriculture in GDP and employment goes down.
 (II) The recent Gujarat elections revealed the political implications of the farmers' movement that put the Union government under tremendous pressure for taking up the farmers' issue serious.
 (III) It is well known that use of chemical fertilizers leads to a loss of flavour and taste in food but now it is increasingly realised that in addition this also causes a loss of nutrition quality and create new health risks.
 (IV) While the bulk of chemical fertilizers seek to provide some major nutrients for quick growth, many badly needed micro nutrients are neglected and depleted very rapidly.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (I) and (IV) are correct
 (c) Only (I), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct

8. (I) Maruti Suzuki and Toyota signed a Memorandum of Understanding according to which both companies will be working together to introduce electric cars by 2020.
 (II) Japan's Suzuki Motor will be setting up its lithium-ion battery joint venture with Toshiba and Denso, investing Rs 1151 crores to set up production facilities.
 (III) The government should focus on developing the charging infrastructure so that EVs can be introduced in the Indian market with more ease.
 (IV) Success has been difficult to achieve for electric cars, mainly because of lack of recharge facilities and high acquisition cost.
- (a) Only (II) is correct
 (b) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct
 (c) Only (II), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (d) Only (I), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct
9. (I) The fear of conspiracies has been a potent force among the political spectrum, from the colonial era to the present.
 (II) The sharing of educational materials has significant potential to improve the quality, transparency and accessibility of higher education systems.
 (III) The onset of the 4th industrial revolution is anticipated to be disruptive and will change the dynamics of the workforce between men or women.
 (IV) A Deloitte report on gender imbalance in the workplace reported that the last two decades have seen a decline in the percentage of women in technology.
- (a) Only (IV) is correct
 (b) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (c) Both (II) and (IV) are correct
 (d) Only (I), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct
10. (I) While eating red meat that is rich in protein is linked with increased risk of heart disease, protein from nuts and seeds could be beneficial for the human heart.
 (II) Eating cruciferous vegetables including broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and sprouts three or more times per day can prevent hardening of neck arteries in elderly women and can also decrease the risk of heart diseases.
 (III) Schemes like NREGA which provide work near home while creating livelihood and enhancing assets need significantly higher allocations.

- (IV) Availability of subsidised food and pensions have declined or even stopped for some vulnerable people due to new Aadhaar linkages or other changes.
- (a) Only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (III) and (IV) are correct
 (c) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct
 (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct

Directions (11-15): The following question consists of a sentence, whose certain parts are highlighted in bold. The highlighted portions are grammatically correct. Each sentence is followed by the three expressions which may or may not contain grammatical errors. Choose the most appropriate alternative among the five options which states the incorrect part(s) of the sentence. If the given sentence is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful, choose option (e) i.e., "No error" as your answer.

11. The entire idea of separate civil aviation and combat air shows in two cities are bound to damage **India's overall self-interest** and the aviation development programme.

- (I) of separate civil aviation and combat air shows
 (II) in two cities are bound to damage
 (III) and the aviation development programme
 (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (II)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) No error

12. Even though much city dwellers **continue to have some links** along their rural homes, there is a growing feeling of urban elites getting more alienated and aloof from urgent issues **concerning the majority of rural people**.

- (I) Even though much city dwellers
 (II) along their rural homes, there is a growing feeling
 (III) of urban elites getting more alienated and aloof from urgent issues
 (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II)
 (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
 (e) No error

13. Living Farms has contacted group of women, **youth and elderly citizens not only to work** on healthy foods but also to seek their involvement in wider issues of **farming and the food system**.

- (I) Living Farms has contacted group of women
 (II) on healthy foods but also to seek
 (III) their involvement in wider issues of
 (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (II)
 (c) Both (II) and (III)
 (d) Both (I) and (II)
 (e) No error

14. Considering the volume of pork that is exported to China, higher tariffs on US exports is bound **to harm US producers** and undermine the rural economy.

- (I) of pork that is exported to China
 (II) higher tariffs on US exports is bound
 (III) and undermine the rural economy
 (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (II)
 (c) Only (III)
 (d) Both (I) and (II)
 (e) No error

15. MSP gives sufficient remuneration **to farmers, provides foodgrains** supply to buffer stocks and support the Food Security Programme **through PDS and other programmes**.

- (I) MSP gives sufficient remuneration
 (II) supply to buffer stocks and
 (III) support the Food Security Programme
 (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (II)
 (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) No error

Directions (16-20): In the questions given below, four sentences are given which may or may not be grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the sentences which are grammatically correct and meaningful. If all the given sentences are correct, choose option (e) i.e., 'All are correct' as your answer choice.

- 16. (I) None of Our Business** are a new Audible production based on stories of eavesdropping, hosted by comedians Gwynne Phillips and Briana Templeton.
- (II) This transaction has given rise to many discussion as to its trustworthiness and the extent of its operation.
- (III) A vivid but somewhat chauvinistic history of Bela's reign will be found in Acsady's History of the Hungarian Realm.
- (IV) The typical elements of a foreign culture are changed into the typical elements of the local culture of translators.

- (a) only (I) is correct
 (b) only (IV) is correct
 (c) Both (III) and (IV) are correct
 (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 (e) All are correct
- 17.** (I) He is one of the soldiers who fights for their country.
 (II) The Narendra Modi government has been accused of undermining various constitutional institutions including the EC.
 (III) There are several problems that political parties and counting agents face while dealing with ballot papers.
 (IV) Punjab, with the highest cropping intensity, irrigation coverage and use of fertilisers is battling with increasing rural indebtedness.
 (a) only (I) is correct
 (b) only (IV) is correct
 (c) Both (III) and (IV) are correct
 (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct
- 18.** (I) Reduced demand for farm labour, increased expenditure on medical and education needs and expensive non-institutional credit have pushed them into debt traps.
 (II) Romans park their cars the way I had park if I would have just spilled a beaker of hydrochloric acid on my lap.
 (III) Umesh Yadav looks to perform to the best of his abilities whenever given a chance instead of worrying over his on and off selection in the Indian cricket team in the T20s.
 (IV) As soon as I opened the front door than I smelled the distinctive aroma of fresh coffee.
 (a) only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (c) only (IV) is correct
 (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
- 19.** (I) Many tax experts argue that sales tax holidays don't really boost annual retail shopping overall, but simply shift the spending from one time of the year to another.
 (II) The statue would come up in the elevated land located at the junction where the Museum-Vellayambalam road branches off to Nandavanam.
 (III) There was no lack of entertainment on the cruise ship, since there were comedy shows as well as musical performances.
 (IV) It is thus difficult to form a judgment as to what has most claim to acceptance as the general law, and what may be regarded as local or exceptional.
 (a) only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (c) only (IV) is correct
 (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) are correct
 (e) All are correct
- 20.** (I) A farmer's dharma is to nurture produce, not to destroy it in anger and clash of egos.
 (II) With deposits in either of this scheme, you can not only increase your savings but also grow your wealth as your deposits.
 (III) an overarching theme is that "inadequate" data protection allows digital ecosystem entities an advantage in the use of the data, as compared to the user.
 (IV) The close dependency of all mental operations on brain also tempts them to the conclusion that brain is not only an organ, but the whole organ of conscious mind.
 (a) only (I) is correct
 (b) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 (c) only (IV) is correct
 (d) Only (I), (III) and (IV) are correct
 (e) All are correct
- Directions (21-25):** In the questions given below, a sentence is divided into five parts, out of which certain parts are highlighted which may or may not be grammatically correct. Choose the grammatically correct part out of the highlighted parts of the sentence as your answer. If all the highlighted parts are grammatically correct then choose (e) as your choice. If all the given parts of the sentence are grammatically incorrect then choose (d).
- 21.** The National Center for Education Information (a) / **says a predicted teacher (b) / shortage won't plan on (c) / because teachers who left (d) / the profession are returning back. (e)**
 (a) B (b) C (c) E
 (d) None of these (e) No error
- 22.** Carroll gave an overview of (a) / each of the players the team has (b) / **signed during free agency (c) / and how they may fit in (d) / with the team in 2018. (e)**
 (a) C (b) D (c) E
 (d) None of these (e) No error
- 23.** The ongoing synchronized cyclical upswing (a) / is good news, but (b) / **underneath these impressive growth (c) / is risk that is perhaps (d) / not being adequately recognized. (e)**
 (a) A (b) C (c) D
 (d) None of these (e) No error
- 24.** Sona ordered (a) / her servant to bring (b) / **her some hot water (c) / as she has to (d) / take some medicine. (e)**
 (a) A (b) C (c) D
 (d) None of these (e) No error
- 25.** There are at least four broad reasons (a) / why policymakers across (b) / the world should be worried(c) / **about rising global debt (d) / and its consequences. (e)**
 (a) A (b) D (c) E
 (d) None of these (e) No error

Solutions

1. **(d);** The first and the third part of the sentence contain errors. To make the first part grammatically correct, replace 'reform' with 'reforms'. It is to be noted that the general rule for the phrase 'one of the' is "One of the + PLURAL NOUN + that/who etc. + SINGULAR/PLURAL VERB". Moreover, in the third part of the sentence, "had been" should be replaced with "has been" since, "Had been" means something began in the past, lasted for some time, then ended. This is entirely in the past while, both "Has been" and "Have been" mean something began in the past and has lasted into the present time. Drawing a hint from the phrase "the government in recent years", it can be understood that a reform undertaken by the government has been beneficial for (DBT) from past few years and still continues to be beneficial. However, part (II) of the sentence is from all grammatical errors. Hence, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
2. **(b);** There is an error in the second part of the sentence. To make the sentence grammatically correct, replace, the auxiliary verb 'were' with 'was', as the subject [money] associated with verb is an uncountable noun. 'Money' is an uncountable noun. This is because we cannot say, "1 money, 2 money, etc." It's true, that money can be counted in the sense as, "1 rupee, 2 rupees, etc." But we are counting 'rupees', not 'money'. Therefore, 'rupees' makes money countable, so 'rupees' is a countable noun while 'money' is uncountable. Moreover, it is to be noted that with an uncountable noun the verb associated is always singular. However, part (I) and (III) are devoid of all errors, hence, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.
3. **(c);** The error lies in the third part of the sentence. It is to be noted that (a) little and (a) few are quantifiers meaning 'some'. Little and few have negative meanings. They are used to mean 'not as much as may be expected or wished for'. 'a little' is used with singular uncountable nouns while 'a few' with plural countable nouns. Since the noun associated with the quantifier is an uncountable noun [extra spring in our step and sparkle in our eye], the quantifier to be used should be 'a little'. However, part (I) and (II) are grammatically correct therefore, option (c) becomes the most viable answer choice.
4. **(d);** The error lies in part (I) and part (II) of the sentence. It is to be noted that if the noun is modified by an adjective, an article is placed before the adjective. Here the article which is used is "the" which should be replaced by "a". Moreover, to make the second part of the sentence contextually correct, replace 'to' with 'about'. As part (III) of the sentence is error free, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
5. **(e);** All the parts of the given sentence are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful hence, do not require any corrections. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.
6. **(d);** All the given sentences, except (III), are grammatically correct. In the case of sentence (III), the verb "has" should be replaced by "had" as the sentence is referring to past events [at the time of Independence]. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.
7. **(b);** There are certain errors in both the second and the third sentences. In the case of second statement, the adjective "**serious**" should be replaced by the adverb "**seriously**" as the structure of the sentence requires an adverb instead of an adjective. In the sentence (III), the verb "**create**" used in the latter half of the sentence should be replaced by its singular "**creates**" as the verbs "**causes**" and "**creates**" are used for the same singular subject. The other two statements are both grammatically correct. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
8. **(e);** All the given sentences are both grammatically correct. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
9. **(c);** There are errors in both the statements (I) and (III). In the case of first sentence, the preposition "**among**" should be replaced by "**across**" to make the sentence grammatically and contextually feasible. It is to be noted that the preposition "**among**" implies "**indicating a division, choice, or differentiation involving three or more participants**", while the preposition "**across**" implies "**from one side to the other of (a place, area, etc.)**". Thus, the expression "**across the political spectrum**" gives a meaningful sense to the sentence. In the case of third sentence, the conjunction "**or**" should be replaced by "**and**" as the preposition "**between**" preceding the conjunction indicates that the two nouns should

- be connected by “**and**”. The two statements are both grammatically correct. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.
- 10. (e);** All the given sentences are both grammatically correct. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
- 11. (b);** There is a grammatical error in only the part (II) of the sentence, the verb “**are**” should be replaced by “**is**” as the subject of the verb is singular [**the entire idea**]. The other two parts are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
- 12. (c);** There are grammatical errors in both the parts (I) and (II). In the part (I), the determiner “**much**” should be replaced by “**many**” as the noun it signifies is **countable** [**city dwellers**]. It is to be noted that both ‘**much**’ and ‘**many**’ are determiners, and have the same or similar meaning i.e., ‘**a lot of**’, or ‘**in great quantities**’, or ‘**a great amount**’, but their usage differs. If a noun is an uncountable noun (which is often in singular form), the ‘**much**’ determiner should be used, while the determiner ‘**many**’ should be used with countable nouns, or plural nouns. In the part (II) of the sentence, the preposition “**along**” should be replaced by “**with**” as “**to have some links with their rural homes**” is the correct expression in the context of the sentence. The part (III) of the sentence doesn’t require any correction. Hence option (c) is the correct expression.
- 13. (a);** There is an error in only the part (I) of the sentence, the singular form of the word “**group**” should be replaced by its plural “**groups**” as the word is used for all three: women, youth and elderly citizens i.e., **group of women, group of youth and group of elderly citizens**. The other parts of the sentence are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.
- 14. (e);** The given sentence is both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
- 15. (b);** There is an error in the part (III) of the sentence, the verb “**support**” should be replaced by “**supports**” as the subject of the verb is singular [**MSP**]. The other parts of the sentence are both grammatically and contextually correct. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
- 16. (c);** Among the given sentences, both (III) and (IV) are grammatically correct. However, there are errors in (I) and (II) sentences. In sentence (I) there is an error of subject verb agreement, ‘**are**’ should be replaced with ‘**is**’, since the subject “none of our business” indicates individuality of each business. Moreover, in sentence (II) “many discussion” should be replaced with “much discussion” as with many “discussions” should be used. The quantifier ‘**much**’ always takes singular noun with it. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 17. (d);** Among the given sentences, except for sentence (I) all are correct. In sentence (I) it should be noted that the verb **fight** has to be plural here. The reason is that the relative clause has to refer to soldiers, not one. The fact that ‘**their**’ is used should already be considered evidence of this. The correct grammatical structure of such sentences is “One of the + PLURAL NOUN + that/who etc. + SINGULAR/PLURAL VERB”. Since, sentence (I), (III) and (IV) are correct, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
- 18. (b);** Among the given sentences, sentences (I) and (III) are grammatically correct. However, there are errors in sentence (II) and (IV). In sentence (II) the grammatical syntax of the sentence is incorrect. Note that when using the third conditional, we use the past perfect (i.e., had + past participle) in the if-clause. The modal auxiliary (would, could, shoud, etc.) + have + past participle in the main clause expresses the theoretical situation that could have happened. Therefore, the correct sentence should be “*Romans park their cars the way I would park if I had just spilled a beaker of hydrochloric acid on my lap.*” Moreover, to correct sentence (IV), omit “than” from the it, since words like “than”, “so”, “therefore” stands superfluous in the sentences beginning with words/ phrases like “as soon as”, “because”, “since”, “so”, “for”, “as”. As, sentences (I) and (III) are grammatically correct, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.
- 19. (e);** All the given sentences are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful, therefore, option (e) is the most viable answer choice.
- 20. (d);** All the given sentences are correct, except sentence (II). To make the sentence grammatically correct, replace “**this scheme**” with “**these schemes**”. It is to be noted that phrases like ‘**one of**’, ‘**each of**’, ‘**either of**’, ‘**neither of**’, is always associated with a plural noun or pronoun. Since, all the other sentence is precise in their grammatical context, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

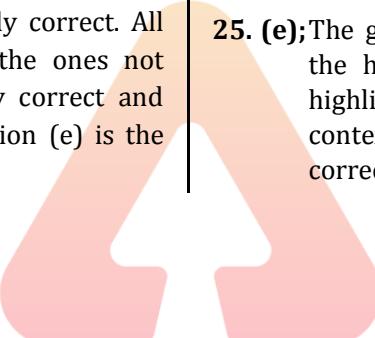
21. (a); Only the second part of the sentence or part (b) is grammatically correct and follows the structure in the context of the sentence. However, there are grammatical errors in both the parts (c) and (e). In part (c), the usage of the phrase “plan on” is incorrect as it means to prepare for something; to be ready for something; to anticipate something. Thus, the correct phrase that should replace the highlighted phrase should be [**shortage won't plan out**] as the phrase “plan out” means to think about and decide what you are going to do or how you are going to do something. In part (e) , the usage of “back” is superfluous as the word “return” itself means to “come back” or “give back”. Hence, it should be removed to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

22. (e); The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

23. (a); Only the part (a) of the highlighted parts is grammatically correct. There are grammatical errors in part (c) and (d) of the sentence. In the part (c), the determiner “these” should be replaced with “this” as a determiner ‘this’ is used to identify a specific person or thing close at hand or being experienced, while ‘these’ is a plural form of ‘this’. Therefore, for the subject [impressive growth] the singular form of the determiner i.e., ‘this’ is required. In the part (d), the insertion of the article ‘a’ is required before ‘risk’ to give the contextual sense to the sentence. Hence, option (a) is the correct choice.

24. (e); The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

25. (e); The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.



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STUDY TIPS

Error correction is the most important part of banking English. There are lot of changes in the pattern, but this is not something we should be concerned about as the good understanding of the key concepts is the only requirement we need to solve these questions. Aspirants are advised to get a good grip on the topics like adverbs, articles, noun and numbers, verbs, tenses etc. Some of the changes you can expect is that you can be asked to find the correct part instead of an incorrect one.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1-8): In the questions given below, a sentence is divided into five parts, out of which certain parts are highlighted which may or may not be grammatically correct. Choose the grammatically correct part out of the highlighted parts of the sentence as your answer. If all the highlighted parts are grammatically correct then choose (e) as your choice. If all the given parts of the sentence are grammatically incorrect then choose (d).

1. The writer complains that (A) **champions in League deal too much damaging** (B) the current meta, and they wish the game (C) **could return to seasons three and four**, (D) when, apparently, people didn't die as much. (E)
(a) B (b) D (c) E
(d) None of these (e) No error

2. Byron Bay's photographer and artist Sean O'Shea (A) **was enough lucky to** (B) capture the image (C) of a **Migaloo the white whale** (D) **as he passed by the North Coast**. (E)
(a) B (b) D (c) E
(d) None of these (e) No error

3. **Higney has a background** (A) in distribution and (B) **came across with a product** (C) called The Bug Bite Thing when (D) **she was working overseas at Denmark**. (E)
(a) A (b) C (c) E
(d) None of these (e) No error

4. **Just over a quarter - 27 per cent - of** (A) people **living in the country have** (B) confidence in their local police (C) **force to keep them safe**, (D) according to the National Rural Crime Survey. (E)
(a) A (b) B (c) D
(d) None of these (e) No error

5. It is important to view the entrants (A)/ in the digital world in the context of (B)/ **communications technology and artificial intelligence (C)/ and their impact on human society, politics, (D)/ the growing economic divide and the lifestyles of people. (E)**

(a) A (b) C (c) D
(d) None of these (e) No error

6. Times such as ours when bankers (A)/ **as well as promoters are been disparaged (B)/ should not blind us (C)/ to the valuable role that both play in (D)/ managing the risks involved with new projects. (E)**

(a) B (b) C (c) E
(d) none of these (e) no error

7. Tech giant Google on Wednesday said (A)/ **it will offer an accelerator programme (B)/ to help game developers in India (C)/ and other South East Asian countries (D)/ scale their gaming startups. (E)**

(a) A (b) B (c) E
(d) none of these (e) no error

8. Even in the case of public sector banks, (A)/ **there is constant talk (B)/ about the Union government (C)/ wanting to merge some banks (D)/ and have a few larger banks. (E)**

(a) B (b) C (c) E
(d) none of these (e) no error

Directions (9-13): In the following question, certain parts of the sentence are highlighted which may or may not contain grammatical errors. There are five alternatives given below each sentence, one of which may replace the existing highlighted parts to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually appropriate.

meaningful. Choose the most appropriate alternative as your answer. If the given sentence is grammatically correct, and doesn't require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No correction required" as your answer.

9. The central principle **which should be guiding the** Centre in improving maternal and child nutrition is that early childhood **is being the foundation for the health** and well-being of an individual.

- (a) which should guide its, is a foundation of the health
- (b) which should be guiding the, is the foundation for their health
- (c) that should guide the, is the foundation for the health
- (d) which should guide the, is the foundation of their health
- (e) No correction required

10. The initiative appears **to address the reform that** the Ministry hopes **to bring about that will be** of critical significance for higher education in India.

- (a) the address to reform that, to bringing about will be
- (b) to address the reforms that, for bringing about that will be
- (c) to addressing in the reforms with, to bring about should be
- (d) to addressing the reforms, to bring about that would be
- (e) no correction required

11. When the Centre recently launched POSHAN Abhiyaan, an integrator **that would be building capacity amongst nutrition workers**, it acknowledged that while official data show a reduction in some of the depressing aspects of women and child health, **the ground reality was far from comfort.**

- (a) that will build capacity among nutrition workers, the ground reality is far from comforting.
- (b) that would build capacity for nutrition workers, the ground reality is far comfort.
- (c) which has built the capacity between nutrition workers, the reality of the ground was far comforting.
- (d) which built the capacity with nutrition workers, the ground reality is not comfort.
- (e) No correction required

12. A major highlight of the financial stability report **is the central bank's finding that** public sector banks (PSBs) **are far more prone to** fraud than their private sector counterparts.

- (a) are the central banks finding that, are far more than prone to
- (b) is the central's bank finding that, are more far than prone for
- (c) is the finding of the central bank, were more fare prone to
- (d) was the central bank to find that, are far prone for
- (e) no correction required

13. The Urban Development Secretary in each State, who heads the monitoring committee under the rules, **should mandate to produce** a monthly report on how much plastic waste is collected, including details of **the types for chemical involvement**, and the disposal methods.

- (a) should mandate to be produced, types of chemical involved in
- (b) would be mandated in producing, the involvement of types of chemicals
- (c) should be mandated to produce, the types of chemicals involved
- (d) may be mandated to produced, the types of chemicals involving
- (e) no correction required

Directions (14-18): In the following question, a sentence is divided into five different parts including two highlighted ones. The highlighted parts of the sentence are grammatically correct and do not require any correction. However, the remaining three parts may contain errors in one or more than one parts of the sentence. Choose the best alternative among the five options given below each sentence that determines the portions that require correction to make the sentence grammatically correct.

14. The sell-off begun early (I)/ in the session after (II)/ **Libya's National Oil Company said it would (III)/** reopen ports which were closed (IV)/ **since late June.**

- (V)
- (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Only (IV)
 - (c) Both (I) and (IV)
 - (d) Both (I) and (II)
 - (e) No error

15. **Haj pilgrims are advised (I)/** for cutting down on outside activities such as (II)/ shopping and making visits especially in the day time, (III)/ **apart from the ones organised by Tabung Haji (IV)/** while in the Holy Land in view of the rather hot weather. (V)

- (a) Only (II)
- (b) Only (V)
- (c) Both (III) and (V)
- (d) Both (II) and (III)
- (e) No error

16. An employer wishes to procure (I)/ **a background check from a private company** (II)/ he must first provide the job applicant (III)/ **or employee with a written disclosure** (IV)/ stating its intention to conduct a background check. (V)
- (a) Only (III)
 (b) Only (V)
 (c) Both (I) and (V)
 (d) Both (I) and (III)
 (e) No error
17. Underweight people in India appears (I)/ **to be at greater risk of premature death** (II)/ than that slightly overweight or even obese, (III)/ **India's first study to analyse causes of deaths** (IV)/ among people with and without diabetes has shown. (V)
- (a) Only (III)
 (b) Only (V)
 (c) Both (III) and (V)
 (d) Both (I) and (III)
 (e) No error
18. **Indian cities do not have** (I)/ the financial muscle to build (II)/ **the infrastructure needed** (III)/ to sustain (IV)/ as engines of job creation. (V)
- (a) Only (III)
 (b) Only (V)
 (c) Both (III) and (V)
 (d) Both (I) and (III)
 (e) No error
- Directions (19-23):** There are three sentences given in each question. Find the sentence(s) which is/are grammatically incorrect and mark your answer choosing the best possible alternative among the five options given below each question. If all the sentences are incorrect, choose (e) as your answer.
19. (I) The latest official consumer inflation numbers from Statistics South Africa shows that bread and cereal prices, as well as the price of fruit, fell by more 3% in the year to June.
 (II) Accreditation is an important tool for quality improvement in learning outcomes.
 (III) The present system of affiliation has had a restrictive effect on the quality of higher education.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) None is correct
20. (I) Existing literature models the spread of fake news in a social network in one of two ways.
 (II) From oral communication that connected men and women without any help from technology, we have moved over the millennia into the digital age.
 (III) It is a cluster of old-fashioned cottage in a unique position on the sides of a rocky cleft in the north coast; its main street resembles a staircase which descends 400 ft.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) Both (II) and (III)
 (e) None is correct
21. (I) The public equities asset class has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade.
 (II) The patient's doctor would have all the patient's clinical information in their own clinical software on the desktop.
 (III) Vaccine-related rebound effects are guiding research on other diseases, particularly malaria.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) All are correct
 (e) None is correct
22. (I) Its safe to say that both the awareness and appetite of the Indian retail investor has increased manifold.
 (II) Unfortunately, teacher's unions have shown a blatant disregard for this duty of care, frequently engaging in union meetings and unplanned strikes during school hours
 (III) Congress belongs to each and every human beings of India irrespective of caste, creed, language, religion etc.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) All are correct
 (e) None is correct
23. (I) Staff were reportedly told the business will make efforts to help out-of-work employees transition into possible employment with Coles
 (II) The yuan has depreciated by over 5% since the beginning of June and some people may be tempted to believe that China is doing this to undo the damage being done by Trump's tariffs.
 (III) it is not simply the genes directly inherited from parents that influence child behaviour but also the family environment created by parents with certain genes.
- (a) Only (I)
 (b) Only (III)
 (c) Both (I) and (III)
 (d) All are correct
 (e) None is correct

24. (i) I was pretty sure that he would support my views for changing the old and static structure of our organization.
(ii) You would have certainly completed the work in the allotted time had you planned it properly.
(iii) No variety of mango produced in our country is as tasty as this variety.
(a) Only (i) is correct
(b) Both (ii) and (iii) are correct
(c) Both (i) and (ii) are correct
(d) None is correct
(e) All are correct

Directions (25-29): The following questions consist of a sentence which is divided into five parts which contain grammatical errors in one or more than one part of the sentence. The portion specified in bold suggests that it is grammatically correct and does not require any correction. If there is an error in rest part of the sentence, find the correct alternative among the five options which indicates the part(s) of the sentence containing grammatical error(s). If the given sentence is grammatically correct or does not require any correction, choose (e), i.e., "No error" as your answer.

25. When victims understand (I)/ **that a person's bizarre beliefs** (II)/ may actually acquit them (III)/ from the crime it is another (IV)/ reason not to trust the justice system. (V)

- (a) Both (I) and (III)
(b) Only (V)
(c) Both (I) and (V)
(d) only (IV)
(e) No error

26. The Board of Directors govern (I)/ the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, conduct (II)/ development activities, approve (III)/grant decisions and works to engage people, (IV)/ **connect resources and build community.** (V)

- (a) Both (I) and (III)
(b) Only (II)
(c) Only (I), (II) and (III)
(d) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV)
(e) No error

27. The junior is one of hundreds of (I)/ students in the area who have to find (II)/ **somewhere to store his belongings and somewhere to sleep** (III)/ during the short gap within leases (IV)/ ending late July and starting 1 Aug. (V)

- (a) Both (II) and (IV)

- (b) Only (V)
(c) Both (I) and (V)
(d) only (I)
(e) No error

28. Properties with a view of the sea (I)/ can command prices up to 32 per cent (II)/ higher than a similar (III)/ property with no sea view, (IV)/ **a study has found.** (V)

- (a) Both (II) and (IV)
(b) Only (V)
(c) Both (I) and (V)
(d) only (I)
(e) No error

29. We have not been (I)/ given a chance to compete (II)/ in spite of we (III)/ **can supply the** (IV)/ best cost-effective solution. (V)

- (a) Both (I) and (II)
(b) Only (III)
(c) Both (I) and (V)
(d) only (I)
(e) No error

Direction (30): The following question consists of a sentence which is divided into three parts which contain grammatical errors in one or more than one part of the sentence. If there is an error in any part(s) of the sentence, find the correct alternative(s) to replace that part(s) from the three options given below each question to make the sentence grammatically correct. If there is an error in any part of the sentence and none of the alternatives is correct to replace that part, then choose (d), i.e., None of the (I), (II) and (III) as your answer. If the given sentence is grammatically correct or does not require any correction, choose (e), i.e., No correction required as your answer.

30. One in six Americans is expected to develop dementia, (I)/ and care can be enough costly to force even(II)/ middle-class families into poverty and onto the public payroll. (III)

- (I) One in six American is expected to develop dementia,
(II) and care can be costly enough to force even
(III) middle-class families into poverty and public
payroll.

- (a) only (III)
(b) only (II)
(c) Both (I) and (II)
(d) None of (I), (II) and (III)
(e) no correction required

Solutions

1. **(b);** Only the fourth part of the sentence or part (D) is grammatically correct and follows the structure in the context of the sentence. However, there are grammatical errors in both the parts (B) and (E). In part (B) of the sentence, it is to be noted that 'Too much' modifies a noun and a verb, and 'much too' modifies an adjective or adverb. Since, 'damaging' is an adjective, it should be replaced with its noun form i.e., 'damage in' to make part (B) of the sentence correct. Moreover, in order to correct part (E) replace 'died' with 'die' since the auxiliary verb (didn't) is marked for past tense, but the main verb is not. It appears in its base form. As, only part (D) among the highlighted parts is correct, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
2. **(c);** Among the given highlighted parts, only part (E) is devoid of all grammatical and contextual errors. However, parts (B) and (D) contain grammatical errors. In part (B) it is to be noted that whenever 'enough' is used as an adverb of quantity, then the adverb 'enough' is used to modify an adjective. In this case, it goes after the adjective it modifies. E.g. She is old enough to earn a living. Therefore, 'enough lucky' should be replaced by 'lucky enough'. Moreover, in part (D), since the photographer has taken the photographs of specific whale named Migaloo, therefore, article 'a' should be omitted to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence, option (c) becomes the most viable answer choice.
3. **(a);** Among the given highlighted parts, only part (A) is grammatically and contextually accurate. However, parts (C) and (E) contain grammatical errors. To correct part (C) of the sentence, omit 'with' from the highlighted phrase, as while using the phrasal verb 'came across', the usage of preposition 'with' is always avoided. Moreover, in part (E) replace the preposition 'at' with 'in'. Generally, 'at' usually conveys a sense of position or location in terms of a single, cohesive point which might be literal ("I'm at the office") or figurative ("He's at the top of his profession"). 'In' usually conveys the sense of position or location in terms of an area represented by limits or boundaries. These may similarly be literal ("I'm in the garden") or figurative ("His business is in financial difficulties"). The other parts of the sentence are grammatically correct, therefore, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
4. **(e);** All the highlighted parts of the sentence are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful and do not require any corrections. We always have confidence in somebody. Since, all the other parts of the sentence are correct, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
5. **(e);** The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
6. **(b);** Among the highlighted parts, only part (C) is grammatically correct and contextually relevant. It is to be noted in part (B), 'been' should be replaced by 'being', since, 'been' is the past participle of 'be' verb while 'being' is its present participle. The context of the sentence is related with the present time. This can be understood from part (A) [Times such as ours]. Therefore, 'being' should be used. Moreover, part (E) of the sentence can be corrected by replacing the preposition 'with' by 'in'. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
7. **(e);** The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
8. **(e);** The given sentence is grammatically correct. All the highlighted parts along with the ones not highlighted are both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
9. **(c);** 'that should guide the, is the foundation for the health' are the correct phrases to be replaced. The use of 'which' after 'central principle' is incorrect as 'which' is used for introducing non-defining clauses whereas 'that' is used for introducing defining clauses.
(A defining clause (also called an essential clause or a restrictive clause) gives information essential to the meaning of the sentence. Ex. My bike **that** has a broken seat is in the garage. It means that there is at least one other bike.)
In second clause, Early Childhood is regarded as foundation for the well-being of an individual. Here present tense will be used.
Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

- 10. (e)** The given sentence with the highlighted phrases is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Thus, it doesn't require any other alterations, hence, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 11. (a)**; The most appropriate set of phrases that should replace the incorrect phrases of the sentence is "that will build capacity among nutrition workers, the ground reality is far from comforting". It is to be noted that "Would" is a past-tense form of will. If you are writing about past events, you can use it to indicate something that was in the future at that point in time, but is not necessarily in the future right now. In other words, you use would to preserve the future aspect when talking about the past. Therefore, would should be replaced by "will". Moreover, the second highlighted phrase should be in the present tense, therefore, "was" should be replaced by "is". In addition to, to describe the quality of the "ground reality" the adjective form of 'comfort' should be used. Thus, 'comfort' should be replaced by 'comforting', hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
- 12. (e)**; The given sentence with the highlighted phrases is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Thus, it doesn't require any other alterations, hence, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 13. (c)**; The most suitable phrases to replace the incorrect highlighted phrases are "**should be mandated to produce; the types of chemicals involved**". All the other phrases are either grammatically incorrect or contextually meaningless". Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 14. (c)**; The error lies in Part (I) as well as in part (IV) of the sentence. It is to be noted to make the first part of sentence grammatically correct, replace "begun" with "began" as the sentence is in the past tense. This can be understood from the highlighted part (III) [...said]. Moreover, the usage of "since" in part (V) of the sentence indicates the intervening period between (the time mentioned) and the time under consideration, typically the present. Therefore, it implies that the company would reopen ports which are still closed from past June, hence "were" should be replaced with "had been" as "Had been" means something began in the past [June], lasted for some time, then ended [present]. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
- 15. (a)**; The error lies in part (II) of the sentence. It is to be noted that the verb "advised" given in the first part of the sentence will always be followed by "to + V1" structure, rather than "for +ing". Therefore, "for cutting" should be replaced by "to cut" in order to make the sentence grammatically correct. All the other parts of the sentence are in absolute grammatical syntax. Hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
- 16. (d)**; The error lies in parts (I) and (III) of the sentence. In order to make the first part of the sentence error free, replace "wishes" by "wishing" as the present participle form is used to describe the continuous form of a verb. Moreover, in part (III) of the sentence, 'he' is superfluously used and thus shall omitted, since the subject of the sentence has been already mentioned [Employer]. The other parts of the sentence are grammatically correct, hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 17. (d)**; The error lies in parts (I) and (III) of the sentence. It is to be noted that If the collective noun [Underweight people] refers to the group as a unit, then it takes a singular verb. If it refers to the individuals in the group or the parts that make up the group, then the verb should be plural. Here, the sentence is referring to the individuals of the group, hence the verb [appears] should be in its plural form [appear]. Moreover, in part (III) of the sentence "that" should be replaced by "those", as the comparison is made between the plural subjects. However, "that" is used for the comparison between singular subjects. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 18. (e)**; All the parts of the given sentence are grammatically correct and do not require any corrections and improvements. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
- 19. (a)**; Among the given sentences, Sentence (I) stands to be grammatically incorrect. To make the sentence correct replace "shows" by "show", since the associated subject [official consumer inflation numbers] of the verb is plural in nature. Thus, to comply with the subject-verb agreement, the verb should be in its plural form [show]. Both the other sentences are grammatically correct and do not require any corrections, therefore, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 20. (b)**; Among the given sentences, sentence (III) is grammatically incorrect. To make the sentence correct replace "cottage" by "cottages", since the collective noun is formed with several individual objects. Therefore, since together they are more than one, "cottage" should be in its plural form. Both the other sentences are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

21. (d); All the given sentences are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Therefore, they do not require any corrections. Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.
22. (e); Among the given sentences, none of them is grammatically correct. In sentence (I) 'Its' should be replaced with "It's", since It's is always the abbreviation of "it is" as in "It's (= it is) a nice day, isn't it?" 'Its' is the possessive of "it" as in, "That is Morton's puppy, but I don't know its name." In the second sentence, its means "belonging to it". In sentence (II), "teacher's" should be replaced with "teachers", since, the possessive of a plural noun is formed by adding only an apostrophe when the noun ends in 's', and by adding both an apostrophe and s when it ends in a letter other than 's'. Moreover, in sentence (III) "beings" should be replaced by "being", since each one of and every one of are followed by a plural noun or pronoun. Hence, option (e) is the most viable answer choice.
23. Ans.(a); Among the given sentences, sentence (I) is grammatically incorrect. To make sentence (I) correct, replace "will" with 'would', as the reporting verb "told" is in the past tense. It is to be noted if reporting verb is in the past tense, then in reported speech of indirect narration, instead of "will" 'would' is used. Sentences (II) and (III) are grammatically correct. Therefore, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
24. (d); (i) Replace 'for changing' by 'of changing' as '**view(s)**' is followed by the Preposition '**of**'.
 (ii) Replace 'in' by 'within' as '**within the allotted time**' is the correct usage.
 (iii) Replace 'No variety' by 'No other variety' as when a particular class of people or things is compared with the same class of all people or things in positive degree, then the correct syntax is "**No other + Singular Noun...so/as + Positive Degree + as...**".
 e.g. No other leader in the R.J.D. is so/as powerful as Mr. Laloo Prasad.
25. (d); Among all the given parts of the sentence, the error lies in **part (IV)** of it. It is to be noticed that the verb 'acquit' which means free (someone) from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty, always takes the preposition 'of' to express "**acquit a person of all charges**" while 'in' is used to express "acquit a person in a crime". Since, all the other parts of the sentence are correct, **option (d)** is the most suitable answer choice.
26. (c); The error lies in **parts (I), (II) and (III)** of the sentence. It is to be noted that the 'board of directors' is a group of people which fits into the category of noun if the people in them is considered as a unit, or plural if they are considered as individuals. Since, here 'board of directors' are considered as a single body, the verb associated to it should also be in its singular form, therefore the verbs '**govern**', '**conduct**', '**approve**' should be replaced by '**governs**', '**conducts**' and '**approves**' to make the sentence grammatically correct. Since, part (IV) is already grammatically correct, **option (c)** becomes the most viable answer choice.
27. (a); Among the given parts of the sentence, **part (II) and (IV)** contain grammatical errors in them. It is to be noted that the noun or a pronoun used after the phrase "one of" is always in the plural form (as we are talking of one person/place/thing out of many). However, the helping verb will always be in the singular form, as the helping verb agrees with "one of" and not with the plural noun in the sentence. Moreover, in part (IV) 'within' should be replaced by 'between' as 'within' means inside (something) while 'between' is used to express 'in the period separating (two points in time)'. Since, the other parts are correct, **option (a)** is the most feasible answer choice.
28. (e); All the parts of the given sentence are grammatically correct and contextually meaningful therefore, they do not require any corrections. Hence, option (e) is the most feasible answer choice.
29. (b); **Part (III)** of the sentence contains a grammatical error. To make the sentence grammatically correct, replace the phrase "in spite of" with "in spite of the fact that". It is to be noted that "in spite of something" is always followed by a noun or a noun equivalent, whereas, "in spite of the fact that" is followed by Clause (subject + Verb). E.g. **In spite of his best efforts, he failed;** **In spite of the fact that he worked** very hard, he failed. All the other parts of the sentence are in appropriate grammatical syntax. Hence, **option (b)** is the most suitable answer choice.
30. (b); Only the second part of the sentence contains an error in it. It is to be noted that 'enough' should follow the adverb 'costly'. Since whenever, 'enough' is used as an adverb of quantity, it is always followed to an *associated adjective* or an *adverb* with it. Hence, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.



STUDY TIP & TRICKS

Try to find sentence which introduces a topic or person or idea so as to find an opening sentence. Make mandatory pairs. Mandatory pairs are sentences which will necessarily come together. Try to find the time sequences: in general, if a given set of statements contains reference to time based events, make sure maintain a particular order that is past-present-future or vice-versa. Try to find the transition words such as: as also, as well as, besides, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, similarly, consequently, hence, for one thing, above all, aside from, besides, in other words, instead, likewise, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, meanwhile, next, then, soon, in conclusion, after all, all in all, and then try to sum up.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-20): There are sets of statements in question given below which when connected using the correct sentence structure forms a complete single sentence without altering the meaning of the sentences given in the question. There are four options given below the question, choose the sentence that forms the correct formation of single sentence which is both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. If none follows, choose (e) as your answer.

1. Their strategic relationship, upgraded to a major defense partnership only recently; failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements; the two governments have failed; the failure in turn has held up talks on defense procurement and technology transfers
 - (a) Because of their strategic relationship, upgraded to a major defense partnership only recently but failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements, so, the two governments have failed but that failure in turn has held up talks on defense procurement and technology transfers.
 - (b) Despite their strategic relationship, upgraded to a major defense partnership only recently, the two governments have failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements, which in turn have held up talks on defense procurement and technology transfers.
 - (c) On their strategic relationship, upgraded to a major defense partnership only recently, the two governments have failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements, which in turn has held up talks on defense procurement and technology transfers.

- (d) With their strategic relationship, upgraded to a major defense partnership only recently and failed to make progress on signing foundational agreements, but the failure in turn has held up talks on defense procurement and technology transfers, hence the two governments have failed.
 - (e) None of the above is correct.
2. The rise in global trade tensions; the ongoing trade war could be another factor; the rout in emerging market currencies; its impact on the rupee remains unclear as of now
 - (a) Due to the rise in global trade tensions, the ongoing war trade war could be another factor because its impact on the rupee remains unclear as of now against the rout in emerging market currencies.
 - (b) As the rise in global trade tensions between the ongoing trade war could be another factor against the rout in emerges market currencies, but its impact on the rupee remains unclear as of now.
 - (c) For the rise in global trade tensions among the ongoing trade war could be another factor behind the rout in emerging market currencies, but its impact on the rupee remain unclear as of now.
 - (d) The rise in global trade tensions amidst the ongoing trade war could be another factor behind the rout in emerging market currencies, but its impact on the rupee remains unclear as of now.
 - (e) None of the above is correct.

3. School authorities in several districts routinely summon police officers; handcuff and arrest children as young as six and seven years old; assaulting teachers, damaging school property; even for simply throwing a tantrum
- School authorities in several districts routinely summon police officers by handcuff and arrest children as young as six and seven years old in spite of assaulting teachers, damaging school property, as well as, even for simply throwing a tantrum.
 - School authorities in several districts routinely summon police officers to handcuff and arrest children as young as six and seven years old for assaulting teachers, damaging school property, or even for simply throwing a tantrum.
 - School authorities in several districts routinely summon police officers to handcuff and arrest children as young as six and seven years old despite assaulting teachers, damaging school property, or even for simply throwing a tantrum.
 - School authorities in several districts routinely summon police officers for assaulting teachers, damaging school property, or even for simply throwing a tantrum and handcuff and arrest children as young as six and seven years old.
 - None of the above is correct.
4. A definitive legal framework recognizing; resolve disputes that arise in their commercial transactions; businesses will be encouraged to consider mediation in managing; enforce mediated settlement agreements
- As a definitive legal framework recognizing to resolve disputes that arise in their commercial transactions in order to enforce mediated settlement agreements though businesses will be encouraged to consider mediation in managing.
 - While a definitive legal framework recognizing enforcing mediated settlement agreements, the businesses will be encouraged to consider mediation in managing but to resolve issues that arise in their commercial transactions.
 - For a definitive legal framework recognizing enforcing mediated settlement agreements, the businesses will be encouraged to consider mediation in managing instead of resolving issues that arise in their commercial transactions.
 - With a definitive legal framework recognizing and enforcing mediated settlement agreements, businesses will be encouraged to consider mediation in managing and resolving disputes that arise in their commercial transactions.
 - None of the above is correct.
5. Quick and precise adjustments to the export and import rules; divert the excess supplies to overseas markets; the adjustments could have arrested the price fall; the changes required were not carried out in time
- Quick and precise adjustments to the export and import rules will divert the excess supplies to overseas markets and the adjustments could have arrested the price fall, so, the changes required were not carried out in time.
 - Quick and precise adjustments to the export and import rules and the changes required were not carried out in time, so, it diverted the excess supplies to overseas market even though the adjustments could have arrested the price fall.
 - Quick and precise adjustments to the export and import rules could have arrested the price fall by diverting the excess supplies to overseas markets, but the changes required were not carried out in time.
 - Quick and precise adjustments to the export and import rules might divert the excess supplies to overseas markets but the adjustments could have arrested the price fall, since the changes required were not carried out in time.
 - None of the above is correct.
6. The financial stability report released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday; the rise would be the highest level of bad debt in almost two decades; the report has warned that the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in the country could rise; 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% in March 2019
- The financial stability report released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday said that the rise would be the highest level of bad debt in almost two decades but the report has warned that the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in the country could rise by 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% in March 2019.
 - The financial stability report released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday has warned that the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in the country could risen from 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% in March 2019, which would be the highest level of bad debt in almost two decades.
 - The financial stability report released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday has warned that the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in the country could rise from 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% in March 2019, which would be the highest level of bad debt in almost two decades.

- (d) The financial stability report released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday has warns that the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in the country could rise from 11.6% in March 2018 to 12.2% in March 2019, which would be the highest level of bad debt in almost two decades.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
7. Caroline Lucas pointed to a range of promises; the promises were made during the course of the referendum campaign by the Leave side that had been unfulfilled; promises such as £350 million a week extra for the National Health Service (NHS); the difficulties related to Northern Ireland and other matters that voters had not been aware of at the time of the vote.
- (a) Caroline Lucas pointed to a range of promises but the promises were made during the course of the referendum campaign by the Leave side that had been unfulfilled and the difficulties related to Northern Ireland and other matters that voters had not been aware of at the time of the vote because of promises such as £350 million a week extra for the National Health Service (NHS).
- (b) Caroline Lucas pointed to a range of promises and the promises were made during the course of the referendum campaign by the Leave side that had been unfulfilled but the difficulties related to Northern Ireland and other matters that voters had not been aware of at the time of the vote due to promises such as £350 million a week extra for the National Health Service (NHS)
- (c) Caroline Lucas pointed to a range of promises made during the course of the referendum campaign by the Leave side that had been unfulfilled, such as £350 million a week extra for the National Health Service (NHS) as well as the difficulties relates to Northern Ireland and other matters that voters not been aware of at the time of the vote.
- (d) Caroline Lucas pointed to a range of promises made during the course of the referendum campaign by the Leave side that had been unfulfilled, such as £350 million a week extra for the National Health Service (NHS) as well as the difficulties related to Northern Ireland and other matters that voters had not been aware of at the time of the vote.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
8. At such a tender age, his ability to pinpoint the best possible continuation; has the chess world fascinated; then justify his choice by executing a larger plan; among the many that present themselves after every move
- (a) At such a tender age, his ability to pinpoint the best possible continuation has the chess world fascinated but then justifying his choice by executing a larger plan among the many that present themselves after every move.
- (b) At such a tender age, his ability to pinpoint the best possible continuation from among the many that present themselves after every move, and then justify his choice by executing a larger plan, has the chess world fascinated.
- (c) At such a tender age, his ability to pinpoint the best possible continuation has the chess world fascinated and among the many that present themselves after every move but then justify his choice by executing a larger plan.
- (d) At such a tender age, his ability to pinpoint the best possible continuation from among the many that present themselves after every move, and then justify his choice by execute a larger plan, has the chess world fascinated.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
9. Rules of caste difference and deference required; social reformism in general seemed outraged only; the rules required that the chest of those deemed to be social inferiors be exposed in the presence of ostensible social superiors; the nakedness of the female form
- (a) As the rules of caste difference and deference required that the nakedness of the female form and social reformism in general seemed outraged only by the rules that required that the chest of those deemed to be social inferiors be exposed in the presence of ostensible social superiors.
- (b) As the rules of caste difference and deference required by the nakedness of the female form and social reformism in general seemed outraged only by the rules that required that the chest of those deemed to be social inferiors be exposed in the presence of ostensible social superiors.
- (c) While rules of caste difference and deference required that the chest of those deemed to be social inferiors be expose in the presence of ostensible social superiors, social reformism in general seemed outraged only by the nakedness of the female form.

- (d) While rules of caste difference and deference required that the chest of those deemed to be social inferiors be exposed in the presence of ostensible social superiors, social reformism in general seemed outraged only by the nakedness of the female form.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 10.** Video footage of the children; the anguished cries unnerved even President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters; audio tapes of their anguished cries; the children were imprisoned in cage-like detention centers
- (a) Video footage of the children and the anguished cries unnerved even President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters because in the audio tapes of their anguished cries, the children were imprisoned in cage-like detention centers.
- (b) Video footage of the children and in the audio tapes of their anguished cries, the children were imprisoned in cage-like detention centers and the anguished cries unnerved even President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters.
- (c) Video footage of the children imprisoned in cage-like detention centers, and audio tapes of their anguished cries, have unnerved even President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters.
- (d) Video footage of the children and the anguished cries unnerved even President Donald Trump's most ardent supporters because the children were imprisoned in cage-like detention centers in audio tapes of their anguished cries.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 11.** Arguably, a conversation with persons; permeate divided societies; might well be strangers in traditional environments contributes a great deal; the ironing out of senseless tensions.
- (a) Arguably, a conversation with persons who permeate divided societies might well be strangers in traditional environments contributes a great deal into the ironing out of senseless tensions.
- (b) Arguably, a conversation with persons who might well be strangers in traditional environments contribute a great deal to the ironing out of senseless tensions that permeate divided societies.
- (c) Arguably, a conversation with persons that permeate divided societies and might well be strangers in traditional environments contributes a great deal by the ironing out of senseless tensions.
- (d) Arguably, a conversation with persons who might well be strangers in traditional environments contributes a great deal to the ironing out of senseless tensions that permeate divided societies.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 12.** In the choice of target and the timing of the murder, the attack sends out a chilling message; there are forces determined to gut the emerging consensus; on the eve of Id-ul-Fitr and in the closing days of the government's Ramzan ceasefire against militants; extending the cease-ops and preparing the ground for dialogue.
- (a) In the choice of target and the timing of the murder, the attack sends out a chilling message that there are forces determined to gut the emerging consensus on the eve of Id-ul-Fitr and in the closing days of the government's Ramzan ceasefire against militants by extending the cease-ops and preparing the ground for dialogue.
- (b) In the choice of target and the timing of the murder, the attack sends out a chilling message that on the eve of Id-ul-Fitr and in the closing days of the government's Ramzan ceasefire against militants, there are forces determined to gut the emerging consensus for extending the cease-ops and preparing the ground for dialogue.
- (c) In the choice of target and the timing of the murder, the attack sends out a chilling message that on the eve of Id-ul-Fitr and in the closing days of the government's Ramzan ceasefire against militants, there is forces determined to gut the emerging consensus for extending the cease-ops and preparing the ground for dialogue.
- (d) In the choice of target and the timing of the murder, the attack sends out a chilling message that due to extending the cease-ops and preparing the ground for dialogue on the eve of Id-ul-Fitr and in the closing days of the government's Ramzan ceasefire against militants, there are forces determined to gut the emerging consensus.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 13.** The colonial government was directed; Indian religions were considered heathen and false; disentangle itself from "superstitious" Indian religious institutions.
- (a) As soon as the colonial government was directed that Indian religions were considered heathen and false, it did not disentangle itself from "superstitious" Indian religious institutions.
- (b) Although the colonial government was directed that Indian religions were considered heathen and false, it disentangle itself from "superstitious" Indian religious institutions.

- (c) The colonial government was directed to disentangle itself from "superstitious" Indian religious institutions, because Indian religions were considered heathen and false.
- (d) Unless the colonial government was not directed that Indian religions were considered heathen and false, it did not disentangle itself from "superstitious" Indian religious institutions.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 14.** The wall of separation between temple and colonial state in India was achieved in 1863; take over the superintendence of any land or other property; belongs to a Mosque, Temple, or other religious establishment; a law was enacted which said that it would no longer be lawful for any Government in India.
- (a) The wall of separation between temple and colonial state in India was achieved in 1863 taking over the superintendence of any land or other property that belongs to a Mosque, Temple, or other religious establishment due to a law was enacted which said that it would no longer be lawful for any Government in India.
- (b) The wall of separation between temple and colonial state in India was achieved in 1863, when a law was enacted which said that it would no longer be lawful for any Government in India to take over the superintendence of any land or other property belonging to a Mosque, Temple, or other religious establishment.
- (c) The wall of separation between temple and colonial state in India was achieved in 1863, when a law was enacted which said that it would no longer be lawful for any Government in India to take over the superintendence of any land or other property belonging to a Mosque, Temple, or other religious establishment.
- (d) The wall of separation between temple and colonial state in India was achieved in 1863, when a law was enacted which said that it would no longer be lawful for any Government in India to take over the superintendence of any land or other property belonged to a Mosque, Temple, or other religious establishment.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 15.** Shimla was in the news recently; the last week of May this summer; the hill town experienced acute water shortage; water almost dried up in the Nauti-Khad stream.
- (a) Shimla was in the news recently when the hill town experienced acute water shortage since the last week of May this summer after water almost dried up in the Nauti-Khad stream.
- (b) Shimla was in the news recently when the hill town experienced acute water shortage for the last week of May this summer after water almost dried up in the Nauti-Khad stream.
- (c) Shimla was in the news recently when the hill town experienced acute water shortage from the last week of May this summer after water almost dried up in the Nauti-Khad stream.
- (d) Shimla was in the news recently when water almost dried up in the Nauti-Khad stream since the last week of May this summer but the hill town experienced acute water shortage.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 16.** The United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement; grass root organizations, the rising generation and public-private-partnerships; there is cause for hope in a tumultuous climate change landscape; step up to the plate of American environmental leadership.
- (a) If the United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement, there is cause for hope in a tumultuous climate change landscape for grass root organizations, the rising generation, and public-private-partnerships step up to the plate of American environmental leadership.
- (b) Hardly had the United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement than there is cause for hope in a tumultuous climate change landscape as grass root organizations, the rising generation, and public-private-partnerships step up to the plate of American environmental leadership.
- (c) Because the United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement, so, there is cause for hope in a tumultuous climate change landscape for grass root organizations, the rising generation but public-private-partnerships step up to the plate of American environmental leadership.
- (d) While the United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement, there is cause for hope in a tumultuous climate change landscape as grass root organizations, the rising generation, and public-private-partnerships step up to the plate of American environmental leadership.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- 17.** The Pentagon changing the U.S. Navy's biggest and oldest fleet command name; Indo-Pacific command from Pacific Command (PACOM) might be symbolic; their commitments towards better relations with India; it is the least the United States could do to show seriousness.
- (a) The Pentagon changing the U.S. Navy's biggest and oldest fleet command name by Indo-Pacific command from Pacific Command (PACOM) might be symbolic and their commitments towards better relations with India is the least the United States could do to show seriousness.

- (b) The Pentagon changing the U.S. Navy's biggest and oldest fleet command name to Indo-Pacific command from Pacific Command (PACOM) might be symbolic, it is the least the United States could do to show seriousness about their commitments towards better relations with India.
- (c) The Pentagon changing the U.S. Navy's biggest and oldest fleet command name to Indo-Pacific command from Pacific Command (PACOM) might be symbolic, it is the least the United States could do to show seriousness from their commitments towards better relations with India.
- (d) The Pentagon changing the U.S. Navy's biggest and oldest fleet command name for Indo-Pacific command from Pacific Command (PACOM) might be symbolic, but their commitments towards better relations with India is the least the United States could do to show seriousness.
- (e) None of the above is correct.

18. The latest rankings of Global Illicit Trade Environment Index; their lack of automation in their systems; Austria ranked highly in three of the four main categories; failed to score as high on the customs environment.

- (a) Although in the latest rankings of Global Illicit Trade Environment Index, Austria ranked highly in three of the four main categories and their lack of automation in their systems failed to score as high on the customs environment.
- (b) Regardless of the latest rankings of Global Illicit Trade Environment Index, Austria ranked highly in three of the four main categories and failed to score as high on the customs environment due to their lack of automation in their systems.
- (c) In the latest rankings of Global Illicit Trade Environment Index, Austria ranked highly in three of the four main categories but failed to score as high on the customs environment due to their lack of automation in their systems.
- (d) With regards to the latest rankings of Global Illicit Trade Environment Index, Austria ranked highly in three of the four main categories but fails to score as high on the customs environment owing to their lack of automation in their systems.
- (e) None of the above is correct.

19. A powerful and sustained implementation of inquiry-based science education teamed; the issues of critical importance, such as climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and clean energy; civic learning and social emotional learning can help students focus; examining each issue from multiple perspectives.

- (a) A powerful and sustained implementation of inquiry-based science education teamed after the issues of critical importance, such as climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and clean energy due to civic learning and social emotional learning can help students focus before examining each issue from multiple perspectives.
- (b) A powerful and sustained implementation of inquiry-based science education teamed on the issues of critical importance, such as climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and clean energy by civic learning and social emotional learning can help students focus against examining each issue from multiple perspectives.
- (c) A powerful and sustained implementation of inquiry-based science education teamed for civic learning and social emotional learning can help students focus with the issued of critical importance, such as climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and clean energy, and examining each issue from multiple perspectives.
- (d) A powerful and sustained implementation of inquiry-based science education teamed with civic learning and social emotional learning can help students focus on the issues of critical importance, such as climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and clean energy, while examining each issue from multiple perspectives.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
20. China and India routinely get compared to each other; based on technological, social and economic trends; they are wildly divergent; their population sizes and geographical proximity.
- (a) China and India routinely get compared to each other based on technological, social and economic trends because they are wildly divergent ahead of their population sizes and geographical proximity.
- (b) China and India routinely get compared to each other because of their population sizes and geographical proximity but based on technological, social and economic trends, they are wildly divergent.
- (c) China and India routinely get compared to each other because of their population sizes and geographical proximity and base on technological, social and economic trends, they are wildly divergent.
- (d) China and India routinely get compared to each other based on technological, social and economic trends since they are wildly divergent ahead of their population sizes and geographical proximity.
- (e) None of the above is correct.

Solutions

1. **(c);** Among the given options, sentence (b) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
2. **(d);** Among the given options, sentences (b) and (c) are grammatically incorrect. Sentence (a) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
3. **(b);** Among the given options, sentences (a) and (c) are grammatically incorrect. Sentence (d) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
4. **(a);** The phrase "**the U.S.'s Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act**" means the efforts of United States to counter its adversaries by implementing Sanctions Act. Among the given statements, only the sentence (I) expresses the meaning which complies with the meaning of the phrase and at the same time it makes sure that the actual meaning of the sentence remains intact. Statements (II) and (III) are irrelevant as they alter the meaning of the sentence. Hence (a) is the correct option.
5. **(c);** Among the given options, other than sentence (c), all the other sentences, i.e. Sentences (a), (b) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
6. **(c);** Among the given options, sentences (b) and (d) are grammatically incorrect. In sentence (b) "rise" should be used in place of "risen". In sentence (d) "warned" should be used in place of "warns" as the sentence is in past tense. Sentence (a) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
7. **(d);** Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect since the sentence is in past tense and therefore related should be used in place of relates. Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
8. **(b);** Among the given options, sentence (d) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (c) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
9. **(d);** Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect. In sentence (c) "exposed" should be used in place of "expose". Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
10. **(c);** Among the given options, other than sentence (c), all the other sentences, i.e. Sentences (a), (b) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
11. **(d);** Among the given options, sentence (b) is grammatically incorrect as "contributes" should be used in place of "contribute". Sentences (a) and (c) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
12. **(b);** Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect as 'are' should be used in place of 'is' because of the use of 'forces'. Sentences (a) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

13. (c); Among the given options, sentence (d) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. Option (b) is grammatically incorrect also as 'disentangled' should be used in place of disentangles. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

14. (c); Among the given options, sentences (b) and (d) are grammatically incorrect. In sentence (b) "enacted" should be used in place of "enact". In sentence (d) "belonging" should be used in place of "belonged". Sentence (a) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

15. (a); Among the given options, sentences (b) and (c) are grammatically incorrect. Sentence (d) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. "For" is used to show the duration and last week is a "point of time" therefore "since" should be used. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (a) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

16. (d); Among the given options, sentence (b) is grammatically incorrect as in sentences with this kind of structure we use "when" and not than with "hardly". Sentences (a) and (c) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d)

forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

17. (b); Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

18. (c); Among the given options, sentence (d) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

19. (d); Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.

20. (b); Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically incorrect. Sentences (a) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.



STUDY TIPS

Scope of the correct answer choice should be the same as that of the passage. Scope loosely refers to the subject of the passage and the issues discussed in it. Try to find the tone of the paragraph. If the passage is laudatory, it is not possible for the correct answer choice to be critical. Continuity, It is the last thought or issue that has to be taken forward and not something that is dead and buried.

Practice Exercise Based on New Pattern

Directions (1-25): Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which one sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate/coherent way.

1. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen — an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed Icarus located over halfway across the universe. The star, harboured in a very distant spiral galaxy, is so far away that its light has taken nine billion years to reach Earth. It appears to us as it did when the universe was about 30% of its current age. Normally, the star would be too faint to view, even with the world's largest telescopes.

“This is the first time we're seeing a magnified, individual star,” said Patrick Kelly, who led the study as a postdoctoral fellow in University of California at Berkeley.

- (a) However, through a phenomenon called gravitational lensing that tremendously amplifies the star's feeble glow, astronomers were able to pinpoint this faraway star and set a new distance record.
 - (b) The discovery of Icarus through gravitational lensing has initiated a new way for astronomers to study individual stars in distant galaxies.
 - (c) Located about 5 billion light-years from Earth, this massive cluster of galaxies sits between the Earth and the galaxy that contains the distant star.
 - (d) Setting a new distance record, astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have discovered an enormous blue star nicknamed "Icarus", the farthest individual star ever seen.
 - (e) “You can see individual galaxies out there, but this star is at least 100 times farther away than the next individual star we can study, except for supernova explosions,” said Kelly, who is now at the University of Minnesota in the US.
2. Mahatma Gandhi came from a poor family, and he had dropped out of the cheapest college he could afford. Mavji Dave Joshi, a Brahmin priest and family friend,

advised Gandhi and his family that he should consider law studies in London. In July 1888, his wife Kasturba gave birth to their first surviving son, Harilal. His mother was not comfortable about Gandhi leaving his wife and family, and going so far from home. Gandhi's uncle Tulsidas also tried to dissuade his nephew. Gandhi wanted to go. To persuade his mother Putlibai, Gandhi made a vow in front of his mother that he would abstain from meat, alcohol and women. Gandhi's brother Laxmidas, who was already a lawyer, cheered Gandhi's London studies plan and offered to support him.

- (a) They encouraged Gandhi to join them in reading the Bhagavad Gita both in translation as well as in the original.
 - (b) In London, Gandhi studied law and jurisprudence and enrolled at the Inner Temple with the intention of becoming a barrister.
 - (c) Gandhi, at age 22, was called to the bar in June 1891 and then left London for India, where he learned that his mother had died while he was in London and that his family had kept the news from him.
 - (d) Putlibai gave Gandhi her permission and blessing.
 - (e) None of these
3. In some countries, bananas used for cooking may be called plantains, in contrast to dessert bananas. The fruit is variable in size, color, and firmness, but is usually elongated and curved, with soft flesh rich in starch covered with a rind, which may be green, yellow, red, purple, or brown when ripe. The fruits grow in clusters hanging from the top of the plant. Almost all modern edible parthenocarpic (seedless) bananas come from two wild species - *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*. The scientific names of most cultivated bananas are *Musa acuminata*, *Musa balbisiana*, and *Musa × paradisiaca* for the hybrid *Musa acuminata × M. balbisiana*, depending on their genomic constitution. The old scientific name *Musa sapientum* is no longer used.

- (a) The banana fruits develop from the banana heart, in a large hanging cluster, made up of tiers.
- (b) A banana is an edible fruit – botanically a berry – produced by several kinds of large herbaceous flowering plants in the genus *Musa*.
- (c) There are fuzzy bananas whose skins are bubblegum pink; green-and-white striped bananas with pulp the color of orange sherbet; bananas that, when cooked, taste like strawberries.
- (d) All the above-ground parts of a banana plant grow from a structure usually called a "corm".
- (e) Farmers in Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea first domesticated bananas.

4. _____ protein from nuts and seeds could be beneficial for the human heart, suggests a study including more than 80,000 participants. The study, appearing in the International Journal of Epidemiology, found that people who consumed large amounts of meat protein experienced a 60 per cent increase in cardiovascular disease (CVD), while people who consumed large amounts of protein from nuts and seeds experienced a 40-per cent reduction in CVD.

- (a) It can help you lose weight (especially belly fat), and increase your muscle mass and strength, to name a few
- (b) many health and fitness experts believe that we need much more protein than what we get
- (c) While eating red meat that is rich in protein is linked with increased risk of heart disease
- (d) Almonds are loaded with high protein including other important nutrients, fiber, vitamin E manganese and magnesium
- (e) none of these

5. LED lamps are often promoted as energy-efficient lighting for both inside the home and outside.

However, experts say that LED lighting -- if not installed in moderation -- could affect our health. Blue light exposure disrupts our body's ability to produce melatonin, a hormone that helps us fall asleep.

Many studies have suggested that blue light emitted by our mobile phones and laptops is disruptive because its short wavelength tells our brain to stay alert.

- (a) The United States Department of Energy has claimed that LED lights are no more harmful than any other lighting.
- (b) We should ensure that lighting products meet photobiological safety standards, says Lighting Designer and Educator Anil Valia.
- (c) When this process is disrupted, our body's clock goes off rhythm.
- (d) Modern LED street lights which are cheaper to run and have lower emissions 'damage people's eyesight and dazzle motorists'.
- (e) none of these

6. Over the last few days, Delhi residents have been protesting against the government's approval for felling over 14,000 trees in south Delhi. Faced with severe criticism, the National Buildings Construction Corporation, tasked with redeveloping half a dozen south Delhi colonies, on Monday assured the Delhi High Court that no trees would be cut for the project till July 4, which is temporary relief. Many of the trees proposed to be felled are mature, local, fruit-bearing ones that provide clean air, shade and water recharge to humans and are homes to many birds. These areas of Delhi have served as the "lungs" of the city.

- (a) However, the project reports overlook these qualities.
- (b) Large constructions have been difficult to manage in India.
- (c) The Minister for Urban Development has stated that this public campaign is "misinformed".
- (d) The governments could join hands by committing to review these projects.
- (e) none of these

7. The inefficient agriculture supply chain, which is plagued by the presence of inefficient intermediaries capturing a large share of profits, poor infrastructure and outdated farming techniques. Entrepreneurs could also develop low-cost tools, smart farming techniques and warehousing facilities, besides improving the quality of inputs and extending the reach of irrigation, to transform agriculture in India.

- (a) will do well to infuse the entrepreneurial energy.
- (b) and for the country's long-term economic success.
- (c) which in turn is negatively impacting health.
- (d) also provides significant opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation.
- (e) none of these

8. The future of Indian universities (public and private) will significantly depend upon our ability to harness the possibility of individual, institutional and corporate philanthropy for the purposes of higher education. A major legal and policy reform to promote some form of mandatory corporate social responsibility (CSR) was initiated through the Companies Act, 2013.

Unfortunately, the results so far have not been encouraging.

- (a) However, these recommendations were not implemented.
- (b) Path-breaking, it had the potential to transform the relationship between business and society.
- (c) A range of reforms are being promoted in higher education.
- (d) leadership in philanthropy is central to enabling an institutional vision
- (e) none of these

9. The government has finally put healthcare front and centre, with a bold set of policy and regulatory activities. It has realised that a strong intervention on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is the only solution to tackle poverty and improve the quality of life of our citizens. _____ The

Ayushman Bharat, announced in this year's Union Budget, promises an insurance benefit cover of Rs 5 lakh per family, per year, for 40% of our population, apart from other benefits. It is perhaps the greatest example in recent times to prove that the government is serious with healthcare, and its subsequent uplifting. The National Health Policy 2017 (NHP) envisages the private sector as a strategic partner in meeting these goals.

- (a) It includes calls for substantially increased health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, UHC and quality healthcare available to all.
- (b) To advance the benefits of medical technology, we must have the right public policies to support investment, innovation and patient access.
- (c) This is the complex but far more rewarding path of looking at various aspects of healthcare costs in the context of innovations to improve longevity and quality of life.
- (d) Building a sustainable business can be done neither by solely focusing on profitability, nor charity.
- (e) none of these

10. A temple or any place of worship cannot claim a right to the deity who is being worshipped in that place, since the deity by definition is present to all at all other places. God is not an entity who can be privatized and put under the control of certain individuals or communities or some dominant males. _____

Even rituals cannot be privatized and copyrighted since they are also done for god, a public being.

- (a) And if god should not be privatized, education, water and air should also not be privatized.
- (b) Temple is not a private space because of its dependence on the idea of god as the supreme 'public entity' has an important corollary.
- (c) Equivalently, god really has no privacy, nor can any human claim 'copyright' over their gods.
- (d) Thus, all the arguments about celibacy invoked in this context are attempts to impose concepts of the private on a public being.
- (e) It will be useful to understand the implications of the claim that temples cannot be private places.

11. The government raised social expenditure through its employment guarantee scheme, which, together with a construction boom, raised wages in the informal sector. _____ The result: the growth in

average wages for rural workers in 2013-14 was a huge 28% year-on-year. It refused to curtail subsidies, because it was scared of a backlash from the middle classes.

- (a) Globalization proved to be the final nail in the coffin for the western working class.
- (b) The contending classes are different, because organized labor forms a minuscule proportion of the working class in India.
- (c) In terms of the conflict theory, the competing claims of various sections of the population were all accommodated by the government in a please-all policy.
- (d) It increased minimum support prices for farmers.
- (e) None of these.

12. By making citizens liable for offering a bribe to a public servant, the anti-corruption law has been brought in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption. _____ This exception kicks in only when the fact that one was forced to pay a bribe is reported to a law enforcement authority within seven days. The penal provision can empower people by allowing them to cite it to refuse to pay a bribe.

- (a) Further, it may render them vulnerable to threats from unscrupulous public servants.
- (b) The only exception to this rule is when one is forced to give a bribe.
- (c) The most unacceptable change is the introduction of a prior approval norm to start an investigation.
- (d) These should contain penal provisions as well as assure citizens of time bound services.
- (e) Public servants need to be protected against unfair prosecution.

13. _____ The Great Depression discredited the idea that economies were basically self-correcting, and the following decades saw the development of Keynesian theory and the use of fiscal stimulus. The stagflation of the 1970s led to the development of real business cycle models, which saw recessions as the efficient working of the economy, and central bank meddling as likely only to cause inflation.

- (a) The notion that economic booms cause busts, instead of being random unrelated events seems to have much more currency beyond the ivory tower than within it.
- (b) There was immediately a flurry of activity, as economists hastened to shoehorn finance into their standard models.
- (c) Macroeconomics tends to advance—or, at least, to change—one crisis at a time.
- (d) When extrapolative expectations are combined with an inherently fragile financial system, a predictable cycle of booms and busts is the result.
- (e) none of these.

14. Duties are those actions which take one to one's goal. Thus having a goal is crucial. The ideal action has a goal or destination. (______). The entire focus is on the action, not the fruit. Like Arjuna, all one can see is the eye of the bird. Only the action exists. When all energy is thus directed to the action, the goal is achieved faster. And the journey is enjoyable!

- (a) But when this goal becomes a craving, a longing, when it becomes a hook on which the happiness of life hinges, the fruit starts disturbing the action and life itself.
- (b) To work with fruit makes one unhappy.
- (c) To want something, to believe one will get it and then one will be happy is pure ignorance.
- (d) The journey is anxious; the loss is heartbreaking.
- (e) But once the action starts, the goal should not be allowed to disturb one's concentration.

15. There is in fact no need to panic on account of the rupee. Barring the gradual decline in its value this year, the Indian currency has been fairly stable over 2016 and 2017; _____ its purchasing power at home has been falling.

- (a) with the Sensex rising by half a percentage point.
- (b) With both consumer and wholesale price inflation easing in July.
- (c) with inflation being higher than in developed countries.
- (d) with the U.S. The Trump administration has just sanctioned Turkey's Justice
- (e) which has only intervened sparingly in the forex market so far

16. State governments, which will administer it through their own agency, _____, at pre-determined rates. Reaching a consensus on treatment costs through a transparent consultative process is vital for a smooth and steady rollout.

- (a) Will be launched formally on September 25 sends out the signal that the government is finally recognising
- (b) and to raise skill levels. Reducing the cost of universal health coverage is imperative
- (c) The Centre should extend the scheme to all children and senior citizens, and cover out-patient consultation
- (d) will have to purchase care from a variety of players, including in the private sector
- (e) have been found ordering unnecessary treatments to claim insurance compensation

17. The decision to seek the Lok Sabha's approval to withdraw the legislation this week is a clear acknowledgement by the government that it had underestimated the extent and intensity of public

opposition to the proposed law. One provision in the Bill had, _____ the "bail-in" clause. That banks, by the very nature of their business, are essentially dependent on the funds lent to them by depositors to serve as the pool of lendable resources.

- (a) in particular, generated the greatest debate and attracted the fiercest criticism and ultimately proved to be its very undoing
- (b) explaining the rationale for the Bill as well as the built-in "safeguards" relating to the bail-in provision
- (c) resolution of these issues would require a comprehensive examination and reconsideration
- (d) such a review ought to include an evaluation of the progress made by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in addressing the crucial issue of
- (e) anomaly must be addressed, especially at a time when several state-run public sector banks have been roiled by a series of frauds and high levels of bad loans.

18. Michel Barnier, the European Union's chief negotiator, suggested in a newspaper article a softening of the EU's _____ position on _____ until a

permanent solution is found. Both the EU and the U.K. are against a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, key to the Good Friday Agreement that has ensured peace on the island since 1998.

- (a) a post-Brexit free trade area between Britain and the EU for goods alone, leaving trade in services for a separate agreement.
- (b) the Irish "backstop" — a temporary customs arrangement to avoid a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, until
- (c) just as Ms. May was trying to win support on the continent, will throw a spanner in the works for her
- (d) a lot to gain from parts of the financial sector leaving the U.K. after Brexit.
- (e) how Britain proposes to achieve this while exiting the EU Customs Union and Single Market.

19. The People's Democratic Party, _____ when it won 32 of the 47 seats. At his party's first rally on August 4, Mr. Tobgay touted the 8% GDP growth in favour of his party, which has been fuelled by a construction and tourist boom in Bhutan.

- (a) this election comes after the 73-day India-China stand-off in 2017 in the Bhutan-claimed area of Doklam.

- (b) religious figure in eastern Bhutan, has a similarly worded campaign manifesto title: "For a self-reliant Bhutan: our concern, our responsibility".
- (c) led by incumbent Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, enters the elections with a visible edge, even if it may not be able to better its landslide victory in 2013,
- (d) led to the country's burgeoning national debt. Although the government agreed to raise tariffs for the original hydropower plant in Chukha in February this year, other tariffs will need to be renegotiated too
- (e) can also take credit for stabilising the rupee-nuglrum crisis that he had inherited, as well as for economic reforms including lifting the import ban on cars.
- 20.** The newly appointed Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik is the first politician to be appointed to the position in over half a century. _____ Speaking exclusively to The Hindu after meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Malik said his brief was to "reach out to the people of the State, to listen to them and after listening, do whatever is in their interests."

- (a) He, however, did not comment on whether these "political" leaders would include leaders of the Hurriyat Conference.
- (b) Mr. Malik, in one of his first orders of business after taking over, issued instructions that district collectors should earmark at least one day in the week for public hearings.
- (c) He, however, has said, "I may be a politician appointed as governor, but I'm not in Jammu and Kashmir for politicking."
- (d) "I will be inviting leaders of political parties to meet with me and if anyone feels uncomfortable to come to me, I will go to them," Mr. Malik said.
- (e) None of the above

- 21.** "We shall overcome, some day. Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome, some day," sang Supreme Court judge, Justice Kurian Joseph, for the distressed people of his native State Kerala. _____ Midway through his rendition, the judge urged the audience, comprising Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and his fellow judges, to sing along.

- (a) However, it was the latest entrant to the Supreme Court, Justice K.M. Joseph, who stole the show when judges, journalists, and lawyers got together for the noble cause.
- (b) Justice Kurian belted out the number in the company of Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan at a flood-relief fundraiser organised by a group of journalists at the Indian Society of International Law, a stone's throw from the Supreme Court on Monday.

- (c) "They came in with their boats and saved many lives. It showed their innate goodwill."
- (d) He credited Justice Kurian with bringing him on stage.
- (e) None of the above

- 22.** A special SIT court on Monday sentenced two more persons to life imprisonment, while acquitting three others in the 2002 Godhra train burning case in which 59 Hindu pilgrims returning from Ayodhya were burnt alive. _____ The court acquitted

Hussain Suleman Mohan, Kasam Bhamedi and Faruk Dhantiya for want of evidence. The five were apprehended in 2015-2016 were tried in a special court set up inside the Sabarmati central jail in Ahmedabad.

- (a) As many as eight accused of the case are still absconding.
- (b) Of the 31 convicts, 11 were awarded capital punishment, while 20 others were handed the life term in jail.
- (c) In February 2002, a mob attacked Sabarmati Express in which pilgrims were returning from Ayodhya.
- (d) Special SIT court judge H.C. Vora awarded life sentence to Farooq Bhana and Imran Sheru after the prosecution established their role as conspirators in the burning of two coaches of the Sabarmati Express.
- (e) None of the above

- 23.** A Delhi court has acquitted two members of the erstwhile Dal Khalsa in a case of hijacking of a Delhi-Srinagar Indian Airlines flight to Lahore in 1981. Five persons were accused in the case; three have been declared absconders. _____ Additional Sessions Judge Ajay Pandey acquitted Tejinder Pal Singh and Satnam Singh as the prosecution failed to prove the allegations of waging war against the Government of India against them.

- (a) According to statements by four of the six crew members which became the basis for initiating prosecution, while hijacking the plane with 111 passengers on board, the accused raised pro-Khalistan slogans, such as "Khalistan Zindabad; Bhindranwale Amar Rahe; Khalistan Lekar Rahenge".
- (b) Orders have been issued to initiate disciplinary action.
- (c) The Army ordered a CoI and earlier this month its report reached the Srinagar-based 15 Corps headquarters.
- (d) Now the summary of evidence will be recorded after which the framing of charges will be undertaken
- (e) None of the above

24. Meghalaya CM and National People's Party president Conrad K. Sangma on Monday won the South Tura bypoll, defeating his nearest Congress rival Charlotte W. Momin by over 8,421 votes. But the NPP's Martin K. Danggo lost the Ranikor Assembly seat to Pius Marwein of the United Democratic Party by 2,896 votes. The NPP and the Congress are now tied at 20 seats each in the 60-member House. Mr. Sangma secured 13,656 votes while Ms. Momin polled 5,235 votes.

Two independents – John Leslee K. Sangma and Chris Kabul A. Sangma – managed 3,108 votes between them while NOTA, or none of the above, received 218 votes.

- (a) Mr. Danggo resigned from the Congress in June to join the NPP.
- (b) while Congress' Jackiush A. Sangma finished fourth with 938 votes
- (c) Incidentally, Mr. Danggo had won the Ranikor seat in February for the fifth time on Congress ticket.

- (d) The margin of victory was the highest for South Tura.
- (e) None of the above

25. When Congress president Rahul Gandhi recently met about a hundred women journalists, including those writing on gender issues, women's equality was to be a major point of discussion. Fortunately, we live in a country _____,

ranging from war and conflicts to politics and economics. And when a political leader meets journalists, women or men, all kinds of current topics will be discussed. So indeed, a myriad of them were discussed. Some of these have also been reported in the media.

- (a) where women journalists write on everything
- (b) scholars speak about two kinds of 'empowerment'
- (c) Satisfaction of the above needs is a necessary
- (d) talking about women's equality with
- (e) feminine aspects of men and women

Solutions

1. (a); The statement just before the blank says that the star could not be identified even with the best of the telescopes so it is obvious that the next sentence would be how come they found the star which has been explained in (a).

- (b) cannot be the answer as it talks about newer discoveries through gravitational lensing but not anything about 'gravitational lensing' itself.
- (d) cannot be the answer as the statement just before the blank says that the star could not be identified even with the best of the telescopes but (d) does not explain that if the best telescopes cannot identify the star then how come Hubble telescope identified it but (a) explains it.

2. (d); The paragraph talks about Mahatma Gandhi urging his mother and wife to allow him to go to London. Therefore, the blank must be filled with something related to that hence (d) fills the blank appropriately as he was asking permission to leave from his wife and mother and his wife allowed him in (d).

3. (b); Here choosing the correct answer between (b) and (c) can get very difficult. We have to first read the passage very carefully and here one can see that it is describing us what a banana is. It tells us that it is an edible fruit, its colour, size, shape, starch content, where the fruit grows in the plant, main species etc. therefore some sentence which

gives a proper starter for an introduction would fit in the blank which is (b) as it gives the proper starter "what a banana is".

(c) cannot be our answer as it does not represent a proper starter instead it describes few types of bananas.

4. (c); Upon reading the passage it can be concluded that it is comparing between 2 protein diets i.e. red meat and nuts and seeds and their benefits of risks to CVD therefore the blank should be filled with a sentence which compares the two diets ('while' is used for comparing). The sentence after blank talks about good effects of protein from nuts and seeds. Therefore, the sentence which talks bad effects of red meat will fit the blank appropriately.

5. (c); The sentence before blank says that blue light exposure disrupts our body's ability to produce melatonin, a hormone that helps us fall asleep, (c) is just the continuity of that statement that this disruption affects our body's clock which is the reason for affecting our sleep hence (c) will fill the blank appropriately.

6. (a); The given paragraph is describing about the government's approval for cutting down 14000 trees for construction purpose. Furthermore, it has mentioned the qualities of these trees and

- their importance in the local area. Therefore, the most suitable sentence that would complete the paragraph should be "However, the project reports overlook these qualities" as, it is describing how the project report failed to notice these important qualities. Moreover, all the other sentences don't comply with the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
7. **(d);** The paragraph has described about the problems associated with the agricultural sector and how these problems can be turned into new entrepreneurial opportunities. The sentence after the blank describes the various entrepreneurial options derived from the agricultural sector. Therefore, only option (d) suitably fits in the paragraph. Hence, it becomes the most suitable answer choice.
8. **(b);** The paragraph is describing about the importance of corporate social responsibility to transform the society especially the education sector. The sentence before the blank mentions about the policy of corporate social responsibility. Therefore, the most coherent sentence that would fill the blank to complete the paragraph is option (b) which is describing about the relationship between the business and society. Hence, option (b) is the most viable answer choice.
9. **(a);** The paragraph is describing about the government efforts towards Universal Health coverage (UHC) in order to eradicate poverty and gain healthcare benefits. Thus, the most suitable sentence that would complete the paragraph is option (a) as it is describing about the requirements to successfully implement UHC. All the other sentences are irrelevant in context of the paragraph. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
10. **(c);** Option (c) is the most appropriate choice. The paragraph talks about the privatization of God, the supreme entity. As the second line refers about how God cannot be controlled by certain individuals or communities or some dominant males, only option (c) fits as it mentions about how equivalently no human can claim copyright over their 'gods'.
11. **(d);** The sentence that must be filled in the given blank is option (d). This is so because the paragraph is referring about the social expenditure that was raised by the government which raised wages in the informal sector. To portray its aftermaths the only option that suits is option (d), that is it increased minimum support prices(MSP) for farmers. All other options do not satisfy the given blank. Hence option (d) is the answer.
12. **(b);** Only option (b) fills the blank in the most appropriate way. As the next line after the blank mentions about the specific exception, we have to fill the blank with the exception that is referred. In option (b), the only exception to the rule of anti-corruption law is given that is, when one is forced to give a bribe. Hence option (b) is the answer.
13. **(c);** The most suitable option here is option (c). As the paragraph talks about macroeconomics, the branch of economics concerned with large-scale or general economic factors, such as interest rates and national productivity, which tend to advance, this is the only statement among the given options which acts as an opener for the paragraph. The next line also supports the first line which talks about the economies which are basically self-correcting. Hence option (c) is the appropriate answer.
14. **(e);** The most appropriate answer here that fills the blank is option (e). This is so because the line before the blank talks about the action which has a goal or destination. So the next line must describe about how that action must be led to or in what way it must work and that is described by the statement (e). That is, one's concentration should not be diverted as it affects a goal, once the action starts. Hence option (e) is the answer.
15. **(c);** Option (d) and (e) can be easily omitted as they have no information in context of any countries purchasing power. Option (a) has no relevance here as Sensex can't define some countries purchasing power. Sensex is related to share markets. In option (b) they are discussing the consumer and wholesale price inflation easing in July.
16. **(d);** Option (c) and (e) can be easily omitted as there is no mention either of any scheme or of any insurance for treatments. There is no mention of any launch so option (a) omits itself. Option (d) is the best answer for the fill in the blanks as 'treatment' and 'care' are quite co-related.
17. **(a);** Option (c) is talking about some issues but there are no such issues discussed in paragraph. Similarly there is no review of anything as stated in option (d). There is no such anomaly that has been discussed in the paragraph so the best suitable option to fill with is option (a).
18. **(b);** Option (b) is the best choice as it is explicitly mentioned in the paragraph as well as option, about the hard border between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
19. **(c);** It is clear from the paragraph that The People's Democratic Party, led by Tobgay, as it is stated that he touted the 8% GDP growth so the best answer to fill the paragraph with is (c).

20. (c); The sentence after the blank informs us that Mr. Malik started sharing his opinions and making comments after the blank. So, options (a) and (d), which highlights the statements made by Mr. Malik, are wrong.

Now, the first sentence of the paragraph informs us that Mr. Malik is the first politician to be chosen as the governor of the Jammu and Kashmir. Option (c) adds further to the aspect (as conveyed by the first sentence).

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

21. (b); The first sentence introduces a song which was sung by Justice Kurian Joseph. 'His' in the third sentence after the blank is likely to refer 'Justice Kurian'. The third sentence, which is after the blank, provides information about the circumstances/situations when the song was sung. It is likely that the blank which precedes the third sentence would also be talking about the circumstances when the song was being sung.

Option (c) provides the quotation of the sentence made by someone but doesn't provide information on who made the statement. It would be incoherent if the option (c) fills the blank.

Option (a) introduces another justice K.M. Joseph who is not mentioned neither in the first sentence nor in the second sentence. It would be incoherent if option (a) fills the blank.

Similarly, option (d) introduces a second person, with a pronoun 'he' when neither the sentence 1 nor the sentence 3rd gives any suggestion if the 2nd sentence would abruptly and incoherently introduce second person. So, option (d) is also wrong.

Option (b) which provides information on when, where, in whose presence, was the song sung satisfy the contextual requirement of the blank enforced due to the nature of the third sentence which provides information on the circumstance or situation when the song was sung.

Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

22. (d); The first sentence introduces the theme of the paragraph. The theme of the paragraph is: sentencing of two more persons and acquittal of three other persons.

The third sentence provide information about the names of the persons who were acquitted. The fourth sentence provides information about the place where were the five were tried. No given sentences among the given paragraph provide information about the names of the persons who were sentenced.

So, it would be more coherent, and is likely that the information about the names of the person who were sentenced was provided in the blank.

Among the options, the option (d) satisfy the contextual requirement of the blank and is the correct answer.

23. (a); The first sentence provides information about the theme of the paragraph which is *acquittal of two members of the erstwhile Dal Khalsa who were accused to be involved in the hijacking of an Indian Airplane in 1981*. The second sentence provides information about the number of accused in the case and what happened with the other three accused.

The fourth sentence provides information about the reason for the acquittal of the two persons.

Options (b), (c) and (d) are irrelevant in the context of the paragraph.

Only option (a) satisfies the contextual requirement of the blank and is the correct answer.

24. (d); The first sentence of the paragraph introduces the theme of the paragraph. The theme of the paragraph is wining of the by-poll election at the South Tura by the Meghalaya's CM and NPP President Mr. Conrad K. Sangma. The second sentence of the paragraph provides a contrasting information about another member of the NPP, Martin K. Danggo, who lost the election at the Ranikor Assembly seat. The third sentence of the paragraph provides information about the status of seats at the Assembly. The fourth sentence provides information about the number of votes secured by Mr. Sangma and his opponent Mr. Momin at the South Tura bypoll. The last sentence, which follows the blank, provides information about the number of votes secured by the independents at the South Tura bypoll.

The blank is not likely to provide information about who finished at what position. So, the options (a), (b) and (c), which provide information about the Ranikor assembly seats or the candidates who contested election at the Ranikor assembly seat, are **wrong**.

The blank is likely to provide information about the bypoll election at the South Tura assembly seat.

Among the options, **option (d)** satisfies the contextual requirement of the paragraph and is the **correct answer**.

25. (a); The paragraph is describing about a press conference held by Rahul Gandhi with the women journalists to discuss on current topics. Thus, the most suitable phrase that will complete the paragraph adhering to the theme of the paragraph is "where women journalists write on everything". Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

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STUDY TIPS

In such questions, a paragraph with jumbled sentences is provided. The best way to solve this question is to understand the tone and the context of the sentences. In addition to that the knowledge of pronouns, determiners and relative pronouns also helps to pair the coherent sentences. Words like also, moreover, meanwhile, in addition to, however, indicates that these sentences cannot introduce a paragraph. Pronouns like he, she, it they should be follow the statements that include their antecedents. It is comparatively easier to pair sentences and then arrange them in the logical sequence.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-6): Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions that follow.

- If sentence (B) "Grain prices in India are dominated by the state, being set by CACP reports, and with a major share of public purchase at least in Northwest India and UP, the private trade dare not speculate." is the first sentence of the paragraph, then what is the sequence of other sentences after rearrangement?
 (A) This is also true for vegetables and fruits and for fish and forest products. Marketing here is a big constraint.
 (B) Grain prices in India are dominated by the state, being set by CACP reports, and with a major share of public purchase at least in Northwest India and UP, the private trade dare not speculate.
 (C) The income elasticity of demand for animal husbandry products like milk, cheese as also meat, chicken and eggs being in the range of 1.5-2, demand rises by 10% or more with per-capita income rising by 6%.
 (D) But within grain, the problem was in pulses, and to an extent in some inferior cereals like corn and bajra, also used as fodder. It is the non-grain prices which are the problem.
 (E) More than 40 lakh farmers moved to census towns, chasing the demand for such products in the last decade, and one can be sure that the number is more in this decade.
 (F) APMCs are in any case strangled by the brokers as a number of studies show. The supply chain is ruptured at a crucial point.
 (G) These products are sold outside Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) and the infrastructure support to the kisan is abysmal, as all field reports show.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| (a) DCAEGF
(d) DEGAFC | (b) ACDEFG
(e) DGECAF | (c) DCFGEA |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
- If sentence (B), "Maharashtra also wants 5% of the seats in coaching centres reserved for BPL students. Class-sizes are also to be capped, and each centre will be subject to grading based on performance-based audits every three years." is the last sentence of the paragraph, then which of the following sentences does not fit into the paragraph formed after rearranging other sentences?
 (A) It requires coaching centres to get a government licence and seek a renewal every three year, while home tutors must get their licences renewed every five years.
 (B) Maharashtra also wants 5% of the seats in coaching centres reserved for BPL students. Class-sizes are also to be capped, and each centre will be subject to grading based on performance-based audits every three years.
 (C) The Maharashtra government's proposal to regulate private coaching centres and home tuition providers not only is unwarranted, but also sets a dangerous precedent.
 (D) Only the schools that have more seats in standard are compared to their pre-primary section, will have to fill the remaining quota seats.
 (E) The state had also proposed making government approval of fees charged mandatory, with the government having the authority to reduce these.
 (F) Surprisingly, even though the right to legal redress is a fundamental right, the proposed regulation prescribes a ban on coaching centres from approaching the high court and the Supreme Court, reposing the final say with an appeals committee formed by the government.
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------|
| (a) A
(d) D | (b) C
(e) F | (c) E |
|----------------|----------------|-------|

3. If Sentence (C), "Petrol and diesel prices have crept up slowly over the last three months, but without inviting the kind of anger and criticism usually directed at such fuel price hikes." is the first sentence, what is the order of other sentences after rearrangement?
- (A) Daily pricing is now being seen by many as a ploy to increase prices while allowing the government to escape any political backlash.
- (B) A comparison of crude oil prices with domestic petrol and diesel prices, however, suggests that this argument is far from convincing.
- (C) Petrol and diesel prices have crept up slowly over the last three months, but without inviting the kind of anger and criticism usually directed at such fuel price hikes.
- (D) The government, for now, has ruled out any change to the current pricing policy arguing that it, in fact, ensures that the benefit of lower international crude oil prices is passed on to domestic consumers.
- (E) In 2012, when India purchased a barrel of crude for around \$120, a litre of petrol was sold at around Rs.65 in retail fuel stations.
- (F) The price of petrol in Delhi, for instance, has cumulatively increased by almost Rs.5 since the introduction of the daily pricing policy on June 16 this year.
- (a) FBAED (b) BFAED (c) EDAFB
 (d) FADBE (e) DAEBF
4. If sentence (E), "This initial trend will need to be corroborated by inflows for subsequent months, but with many more taxpayers registering in August, the GST appears to have begun well as far as the exchequer is concerned" is the last sentence of the paragraph, then which of the following sentences does not fit into the paragraph formed after rearranging other sentences?
- (A) Revenue collections from the first month appear robust, with just 70% of eligible taxpayers bringing in Rs. 95,000 crore.
- (B) The GST Council has already changed the announced tax rates on over 100 products and services within about 75 days of the roll-out.
- (C) This would be significantly higher than the Rs.91,000 crore indirect tax target for the Centre and the States on an overall basis.
- (D) At this rate, the total tally could well surge close to Rs.1.2 lakh crore.
- (E) This initial trend will need to be corroborated by inflows for subsequent months, but with many more taxpayers registering in August, the GST appears to have begun well as far as the exchequer is concerned.
- (F) India's goods and services tax regime is nearing the end of its first full quarter since roll-out this July.
- (a) B (b) A (c) D
 (d) E (e) C
5. If sentence (F), "To paraphrase a popular idiom, one may take manufacturing out of China, but one cannot take China out of manufacturing" is the LAST sentence

- of the paragraph, then which of the following sentences does not fit into the paragraph formed after rearranging other sentences?
- (A) It would be folly to view the Harare meeting in isolation. It is a result of years of hard work and politicking by the Chinese government to present the yuan as a credible alternative to the US dollar.
- (B) After becoming the preferred trade partner for the African continent, China's ambitions have expanded to operate the preferred reserve currency for nations in the region.
- (C) Since then, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and, most recently, Nigeria have entered into currency swap agreements with China to reduce reliance on the US dollar.
- (D) This strategy could have significant consequences at a time when Africa is being touted as the "next factory of the world" after China, being developed through Chinese loans which are likely to be repaid in Chinese currency.
- (E) Not too long ago, in December 2015, the yuan was inducted as one of the currencies in which special drawing rights could be exercised—making it one of the most reliable currencies in the world.
- (F) To paraphrase a popular idiom, one may take manufacturing out of China, but one cannot take China out of manufacturing.
- (G) India is likely to use a gradual approach in pursuit of internationalization of the rupee, despite increasing competition from the yuan.
- (a) A (b) E (c) D
 (d) B (e) G
6. If sentence (A), "The RBI governor Urjit Patel has sought more legislative powers to effectively regulate state-owned banks." is the first sentence of the paragraph, then what is the sequence of other sentences after rearrangement?
- (A) The RBI governor Urjit Patel has sought more legislative powers to effectively regulate state-owned banks.
- (B) The reform will enable the regulator to take legal action against any errant PSB, level the playing field between private and public-sector banks and raise corporate governance.
- (C) The regulator is in talks with the government on this issue, and that's welcome. The RBI's remit should be in charge of bank supervision, and not operations.
- (D) His plea to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance to make banking regulatory powers ownership-neutral makes sense.
- (E) The RBI should be able to exercise the same supervisory powers over state-owned banks as over private sector banks.
- (F) The RBI should also stop the practice of appointing its nominees on the boards of PSBs, given that there is a conflict of interest with its supervisory role.
- (a) FEDCB (b) EDBCF (c) DEFCB
 (d) DEBFC (e) EBDFC

Directions (7-11): Answer the following questions after rearranging the following sentences into a coherent paragraph and identify the sentence that doesn't fit in the context of the paragraph.

- (C) The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time.
 - (D) The river's basin covers three states and a Union Territory as follows: Tamil Nadu, 43,856 square kilometres (16,933 sq mi); Karnataka, 34,273 square kilometres (13,233 sq mi); Kerala, 2,866 square kilometres (1,107 sq mi), and Puducherry, 160 square kilometres (62 sq mi).
 - (E) After having been accused of being lax in its approach, the Tamil Nadu government is now left with no other option than to file a contempt plea.
 - (F) It is no surprise that with both the BJP and the Congress having high stakes as major players in Karnataka's Assembly election and with nothing to lose in Tamil Nadu, the State is deprived of their firm support.

12. Considering the statement (C), “**The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time.**” as the first statement of the paragraph after the rearrangement of sentences. Which one among the following doesn’t relate coherently with the theme of the paragraph?

13. If the statement (C), "The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time." is the first statement of the paragraph after the rearrangement (excluding the incoherent statement), which one among the following pairs is consecutively related with each other?

14. Considering the statement (C), "The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time." as the first statement of the paragraph which one among the following may fit in between the first and second statements of the

rearranged paragraph without altering the context of the paragraph?

- (a) Dams, such as the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, Mettur Dam, and those on its tributaries such as Gorur dam, Harangi dam, Kabini dam, Amaravati dam and Banasura Sagar Dam store water from monsoon periods and release the water during the dry months.
 - (b) Rising in southwestern Karnataka, it flows southeast some 800 kilometres (500 mi) to enter the Bay of Bengal.
 - (c) The centre had told the court that the Cauvery water sharing is a sensitive subject and would have an impact on the Karnataka election.
 - (d) Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra said: "We understand the problems of Tamil Nadu. We will solve the issue."
 - (e) None of these

15. Considering the statement (C), “**The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time.**” as the first statement of the paragraph which one among the following may replace statement (B) of the paragraph?

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 - (a) A dam called the Grand Anicut was built in the 2nd century at the point where the river divides.
 - (b) Agreeing to take up Tamil Nadu's petition for contempt against the central government over the Cauvery water dispute, the Supreme Court today said: "We will see that Tamil Nadu gets water".
 - (c) The verdict, ahead of the Karnataka elections, was claimed by the ruling Congress as a big win.
 - (d) It rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in southwestern Karnataka state, flows in a southeasterly direction for 475 miles (765 km) through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and descends the Eastern Ghats in a series of great falls.
 - (e) None of these

16. Considering the statement (C), "The long-drawn dispute in the case of sharing Cauvery waters among the respective southern States will go down in the annals of Indian judicial history as one where court directives have been flouted with impunity from time to time." as the first sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement (excluding the incoherent statement), what should be the logical and meaningful sequence of the rearranged paragraph after eliminating the incoherent statement?

- (a) CFEBA (b) CDABF (c) CEABD
 (d) CFEAD (e) CEAFB

Directions (17-21): Answer the following questions after rearranging the following sentences into a coherent paragraph and identify the sentence that doesn't fit into the context of the paragraph.

- (A) Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power.
- (B) Equally important, he then brought to bear his extraordinary understanding of world affairs and formidable diplomatic skills to gain global acceptance of new realities.
- (C) It was not a decision he took lightly, but one he knew was of paramount importance in the face of mounting challenges to India's security.
- (D) No longer would India's security be vulnerable. At that moment of surge in national pride, his was a voice of restraint and responsibility. And, the world listened to the wisdom of the man of peace.
- (E) Born into a family of modest means and high ideals, he hailed from a small town in MP.
- (F) Indeed, it is the combination of his legacies of creating strategic capabilities, promoting stronger economic growth, undertaking multi-directional diplomacy and harnessing of diaspora energies that is today the basis for the respect we command across the world.

17. Considering statement (A) "Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power" as the first sentence of the rearranged paragraph, then which among the following fails to become the part of the coherent paragraph?

- (a) C (b) D (c) B
(d) F (e) E

18. Among the following pairs which one of them is formed with two consecutive statements after the rearrangement?

- (a) D - F (b) C - D (c) A - B
(d) C - B (e) A - F

19. Considering statement (A) "Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power" as the first sentence of the rearranged paragraph, identify the correct sequence of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph (excluding the incoherent one).

- (a) ABCDF (b) AFBCD (c) ADCFB
(d) ACDBF (e) ABDCF

20. Considering statement (A) "Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear

weapons power" as the first sentence of the rearranged paragraph, which of the following statement should FOURTH sentence after the rearrangement? (Excluding the incoherent sentence)

- (a) B (b) H (c) E
(d) G (e) F

21. Considering statement (A) "Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power" as the first sentence of the rearranged paragraph, which of the following statement should SECOND sentence after the rearrangement? (Excluding the incoherent sentence)

- (a) B (b) H (c) E
(d) C (e) F

Directions (22-24): Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions that follow.

22. (A) The nature of threats is such that they continue to evolve all the time.

(B) Both the 2001 terror attack in New York and the November 2008 attack in Mumbai were one of a kind with few parallels at the time.

(C) Anticipating an attack of this nature remains in the area of an "intelligence gap" rather than an "intelligence failure".

(D) The real problem is that when dealing with terrorism and terror networks, no two situations in the actual world are identical.

(E) Most experts explain an intelligence gap as one denoting an absence of intelligence output while an intelligence failure is one where, based on available evidence, no warning was issued.

(F) Even while the IS has gained a great deal of prominence due to its brand of violence, other terror networks have continued to be no less active.

If the sentence (D), "The real problem is that when dealing with terrorism and terror networks, no two situations in the actual world are identical." is the first sentence of the paragraph, then which of the following sentences does not fit into the paragraph formed after rearranging other sentences?

- (a) A (b) E (c) C
(d) B (e) F

23. (A) A number of viruses, malware and cryptoworms are also being developed in the JavaScript, which gives the attackers cross-platform options.

(B) The attacks aren't limited to mobile phones and e-Pads.

(C) While Windows operating systems were the most vulnerable to cyberattacks, a number of Android threats have been reported in the last couple of years, including potent crypto-ransomware attacks on Android devices.

- (D) In 2016, the first known Ransomware, named KeRanger, targeting Mac users was also reported.
 (E) All devices, including televisions that use Android, are also potentially vulnerable.
 (F) The Mirai botnet malware affected 2.5 million home router users and other Internet of Things devices.

If the sentence (C), "While Windows operating systems were the most vulnerable to cyberattacks, a number of Android threats have been reported in the last couple of years, including potent crypto-ransomware attacks on Android devices." is the first sentence of the paragraph, then what is the sequence of other sentences after rearrangement?

- (a) DEFAB (b) BEDFA (c) BADFE
 (d) AFBED (e) ADBEF

24. (A) Funding varies with the political climate: there will be money to buy equipment but no certainty that resources will flow for all the years needed to ensure significant results.
 (B) But, Mr. Bhattacharjee says, "Working with hands is not encouraged among scientists. The words used in Indian labs are: one needs hands to do experiments, not brains."
 (C) To succeed, experiments require at least two conditions: guarantees of long-term funding and scientists' collaboration with each other.
 (D) Lab assistants are the hands, while scientists avoid what they regard as mere manual labour.
 (E) Experimental science "is very poor in India".
 (F) And collaboration is a social process, not an intellectual one.
 (G) It involves, among other things, physical labour together with others.

If the sentence (F), "And collaboration is a social process, not an intellectual one." is the fourth sentence of the paragraph, then which of the following options indicates the follow-up sentence i.e the **FIFTH** sentence of the coherent paragraph so formed?

- (a) A (b) C (c) G
 (d) B (e) D

Direction (25): The sentences given in each of the following questions, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a letter. From among the five choices given below each question, choose the most logical order of sentences that construct a coherent paragraph.

25. (A) However, "motivation" which drives our voluntary behaviours can be said to be the strongest driving factor of all.
 (B) Motivation, previous academic record, self-financing, quality of teaching and nature of class lectures are factors that influence attendance.
 (C) The control that students have over their action, their environment, determines their choice.
 (D) The level of motivation and the class context determines whether one wishes to attend a class or not.

- (E) Another critical factor that drives attendance is quality of teaching, which varies from brilliant to sadly, pathetic.
 (a) ABDCE (b) BADCE (c) CBDAE
 (d) DBCEA (e) EBDCA

Directions (26-30): Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below.

- A. In 2011, he presented the Leonard Hastings Schoff - Memorial Lectures at Columbia, and these form the basis of this posthumous book, an analysis of plot in drama and fiction.
 B. Foundational largesse on such a scale certainly reinforces the impression that the life of a tenured professor at a major university resembles one long holiday, some of it spent with a beautiful view of Lake Como.
 C. Not to sound philistine, but this seems an inordinate amount of money and time off, especially given the relatively small scholarly return.
 D. According to the introduction by Russian scholar Robin Feuer Miller, "Plots," though brief, reflects many years of thought and research.
 E. A prefatory note by Belknap duly thanks "the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program, the Bellagio Center, the Kennan Institute at the Smithsonian Institute, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the International Research and Exchanges Board."
 F. Robert L. Belknap was a longtime Columbia University professor and the author of two important studies of Dostoevsky's "Brothers Karamazov."

26. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?
 (a) A (b) B (c) C
 (d) D (e) F

27. Which of the following should be the **FIFTH** sentence after rearrangement?
 (a) A (b) B (c) C
 (d) D (e) F

28. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
 (a) A (b) B (c) C
 (d) D (e) F

29. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?
 (a) A (b) B (c) C
 (d) D (e) E

30. Which of the following should be the **SIXTH (last)** sentence after rearrangement?
 (a) A (b) B (c) C
 (d) D (e) E

Solutions

1. **(a);** As mentioned in the question, sentence (B) stands as the first statement of the coherent paragraph. It is describing that the pricing of grains is largely influenced by the states and the public purchase. Therefore, the next statement that should follow sentence (B) must further describe about the pricing of grains. Only sentence (D) is describing about the problem associated with the pricing of pulses and cereals. Moreover, it also provides a hint for the next statement that should follow it by mentioning the problem associated with the non-grain prices. So, the next statement that should consecutively follow statement (D) must contain information on the non-grain products. It is to be noted that statement (C) asserts information on the non-grain i.e., animal husbandry products, therefore, it logically connects with the previous statement i.e., statement (D). Moreover, the starter of the sentence (A) "This is also true for vegetables..." provides a hint that it forms a pair with statement (C) as the term 'also' indicates that the fact associated with the animal husbandry products is similar with vegetables and other products. Sentence (A) also mentions about the limitation of marketing in these products. Sentence (E) elongates the information on chasing the demand by farmers, thus, it forms coherent pair with sentence (A). Moreover, sentence (G) illustrates about the poor infrastructure facility that acts as a hindrance for the farmers to sell their products. Lastly, statement (F) has further provided information on the disrupted supply chain available to farmers for their products. Therefore, the correct sequence of the statements to form a coherent paragraph is BDCAEGF. All the other sequences fail to logically connect the sentences, hence, option (a) becomes the most viable answer choice.
2. **(d);** The paragraph after the rearrangement is describing about the new proposal of Maharashtra government regarding the policies to regulate and control private coaching centers. All the sentences together are forming a coherent paragraph except for statement (D). Sentence (D) has mentioned about admissions in pre-primary section through quotas which is irrelevant in the context of the coherent paragraph. Therefore, the correct sequence of the rearranged paragraph is CAEFB. Hence option (d) is the most viable answer choice.
3. **(d);** As mentioned in the question, if sentence (C) is the first sentence then the correct order of other sentences after rearrangement is FADBE.
4. **(a);** As mentioned in the question, sentence (E) "This initial trend will need to be corroborated by inflows for subsequent months, but with many more taxpayers registering in August, the GST appears to have begun well as far as the exchequer is concerned" is the last sentence of the paragraph. Thus FADCE forms a coherent paragraph. The paragraph talks about the revenue collected after GST tax regime which was higher than the target for the Centre and the States on an overall basis while sentence (B) talks about already changed announced tax rates by the GST Council which seems to be unrelated with other sentences. Hence sentence (B) is not a part of the paragraph so formed.
5. **(e);** The paragraph after the rearrangement is describing about the position of China's currency i.e., yuan in the global level in a comparison with dollars. It further describes about China's intention to become the preferred currency of trade among many countries. However, sentence (G) is describing about India's approach to pursue internationalization of its currency in a comparison with yuan. Therefore, the logical sequence of the coherent sentences is AECBDF. Thus, with the elimination of statement (G), option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.
6. **(d);** The first given sentence provides a clue for the theme of the paragraph which is about the new legislative powers desired by Urjit Patel to regulate public sector banks. Following the idea, statement (D) and (E) forms a logical pair, which should be followed by the pair of statements (B) and (F). Moreover, statement (C) expresses the conclusion for issue, which completely satisfies the criterion for the last statement. Thus, considering statement (A) "The RBI governor Urjit Patel has sought more legislative powers to effectively regulate state-owned banks" is the first sentence of the coherent paragraph the correct sequence of other sentences after rearrangement is DEBFC. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

7. (e); The third statement i.e., **statement (C)** of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about a case stating the issue of continuing the business by a top banker's or bureaucrat's relative. However, **statement (F)** "What's not in doubt is a clear conflict of interest and the bank's seeming reluctance to get to the bottom of it" describes about the conflict of interest of the banks which finds no relevance with the facts discussed in the paragraph. Thus, among all the given options only statement (F) cannot fit contextually with the theme of the paragraph. Therefore, the **option (e)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.
8. (b); The third statement i.e., **statement (C)** of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about a case stating the issue of continuing the business by a top banker's or bureaucrat's relative. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (F) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **BDCGAE** to form a coherent paragraph. As, the last statement of the paragraph is stating a fact regarding the case of ICICI Bank — involving its managing director and CEO Chanda Kochhar's husband, Deepak, and the Videocon Group's chairman Venugopal Dhoot where the 50% of the stakes have been transferred for a very small amount Rs. 2.5 L. Therefore, only option (b) continues to state the fact describing that transfer of shares were also made at just Rs. 9 L. All the other options are either irrelevant or doesn't fit into the coherence of the paragraph. Hence, **option (b)** becomes the most suitable choice.
9. (a); The third statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about a case stating the issue of continuing the business by a top banker's or bureaucrat's relative. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (F) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **BDCGAE** to form a coherent paragraph. **Statements (G) and (A)** are describing about the facts associated with the case of ICICI bank. As, statement (G) is introducing the case, statement (A) should follow it. Therefore, **option (a)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.
10. (d); The third statement i.e., **statement (C)** of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about a case stating the issue of continuing the business by a top banker's or

bureaucrat's relative. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., **statement (F)** the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **BDCGAE** to form a coherent paragraph. Hence, as the first statement of the paragraph **is statement (B)**, **option (d)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

11. (c); The third statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about a case stating the issue of continuing the business by a top banker's or bureaucrat's relative. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (F) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **BDCGAE** to form a coherent paragraph.
12. (d); As statement (C) is the first sentence of the rearranged paragraph, it clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about the dispute regarding the distribution of Cauvery water among Southern states. However, after carefully reading the sentences it can be noted that **sentence (D)** "The river's basin covers three states and a Union Territory as follows: Tamil Nadu, 43,856 square kilometres (16,933 sq mi); Karnataka, 34,273 square kilometres (13,233 sq mi); Kerala, 2,866 square kilometres (1,107 sq mi), and Puducherry, 160 square kilometres (62 sq mi)" is describing about the coverage of Cauvery river flowing through different states. Therefore, the correct sequence after rearranging the sentences is **CEAFB** after eliminating the sentence (D) as the incoherent one. Therefore, **option (d)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.
13. (d); The first statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about the dispute regarding the distribution of Cauvery water among Southern states. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (D) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **CEAFB** to form a coherent paragraph. **Statements (A) and (F)** are describing about the political interests of the parties of the states regarding the distribution of the Cauvery river water among the states. Therefore, as statement (F) consecutively follows statement (A), **option (d)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

14. (e); The first statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about the dispute regarding the distribution of Cauvery water among Southern states. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (D) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **CEAFB** to form a coherent paragraph. Therefore, statements (C) and (E) are describing about the plea to file on the controversy regarding the distribution of Cauvery river's water. Thus, the statement that may come in between them should also be in similar context. None of the given options is satisfying the ongoing context of the paragraph. Therefore, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

15. (b); The first statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about the dispute regarding the distribution of Cauvery water among Southern states. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (D) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **CEAFB** to form a coherent paragraph. Sentence (B) can be replaced with option (b) "Agreeing to take up Tamil Nadu's petition for contempt against the central government over the Cauvery water dispute, the Supreme Court today said: "We will see that Tamil Nadu gets water"" as it is expressing the response of the court on the petition filed against the central government over Cauvery dispute. Hence, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.

16. (e); The first statement i.e., statement (C) of the paragraph clearly indicates the theme of the paragraph which is about the dispute regarding the distribution of Cauvery water among Southern states. Taking a hint from the theme of the paragraph and eliminating the incoherent statement i.e., statement (D) the sentences can be arranged in the sequence of **CEAFB** to form a coherent paragraph. Hence, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

17. (e); Drawing a hint from the first sentence, the theme of the paragraph after rearrangement can be articulated that it is describing about the reforms brought by Atalji in the field of nation's security by wise decisions he made during the course of his leadership. Sentence (C) logically connects with sentence (A) as it is further mentioning about his decision mentioned in sentence (A). Moreover, sentences (C) and (D) forms a coherent

pair as they are illustrating about the importance of the decision made by him regarding the nation's security. Furthermore, the next sentence that connects logically is sentence (B). This can be understood from the beginning of the sentence "Equally important..." which indicates that it is the second part of the paragraph that describes the policies implemented by him using his wisdom. The last sentence in the sequence should be sentence (F) as it sums up the qualities of Atalji that helped the nation to prosper and stay strong across the world. However, sentence (E) fails to become the part of the paragraph as it is providing information of his personal life while the paragraph is illustrating about his qualities that helped him to formulate and implement wise policies to make India stronger across the world. Therefore, the logical and meaningful sequence of the sentences thus formed to mold them into a coherent paragraph is **ACDBF**. Since, sentence (E) is incoherent; option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.

18. (b); Sentences (C) and (D) form a coherent pair as they are illustrating about the importance of the decision made by Atalji regarding the nation's security. The logical and meaningful sequence of the sentences formed to mold them into a coherent paragraph is **ACDBF**. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

19. (d); Drawing a hint from the first sentence, the theme of the paragraph after rearrangement can be articulated that it is describing about the reforms brought by Atalji in the field of nation's security by wise decisions he made during the course of his leadership. Sentence (C) logically connects with sentence (A) as it is further mentioning about his decision mentioned in sentence (A). Moreover, sentences (C) and (D) forms a coherent pair as they are illustrating about the importance of the decision made by him regarding the nation's security. Furthermore, the next sentence that connects logically is sentence (B). This can be understood from the beginning of the sentence "Equally important..." which indicates that it is the second part of the paragraph that describes the policies implemented by him using his wisdom. The last sentence in the sequence should be sentence (F) as it sums up the qualities of Atalji that helped the nation to prosper and stay strong across the world. However, sentence (E) fails to become the part of the paragraph as it is providing information of his personal life while the paragraph is illustrating about his qualities that helped him to formulate and implement wise

- policies to make India stronger across the world. Therefore, the logical and meaningful sequence of the sentences thus formed to mold them into a coherent paragraph is **ACDBF**. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 20. (a);** The logical and meaningful sequence of the sentences thus formed to mold them into a coherent paragraph is **ACDBF**. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 21. (d);** The logical and meaningful sequence of the sentences thus formed to mold them into a coherent paragraph is **ACDBF**. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.
- 22. (e);** If the sentence (D) is the first sentence of the paragraph, the sentences in the sequence of **DABCE** form a coherent paragraph which is about terrorism and the intelligence gap in anticipating such attacks. However, the sentence (A) finds no alternative to be matched with as it talks about the organization of IS and its terror networks which has no relevance from any other sentences among the given options. Hence (e) is the correct option as the sentence (F) does not belong to the paragraph so formed.
- 23. (b);** If (C) is the first sentence, the correct sequence of other sentences after rearrangement should be **BEDFA**. The mention of “crypto-ransomware attacks” in the first sentence indicates that the following sentence should be (B) [The attacks...]. Sentences (B) and (E) make a clear connection. Similarly sentences (D) and (F) make another combination. Thus, sentences in the sequence of **CBEDFA** form a coherent paragraph which is about the cyber security against certain cyber threats these days. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
- 24. (c);** If (F) is the fourth sentence of the paragraph, the sentences in the sequence of **ECAFGBD** form a coherent paragraph which is about the experimental science and the role of collaboration in this field. There is a clear evidence that sentence (E) would be the starting sentence of the paragraph and the sentence (C) should follow (E) to form a logical chain. As the sentence (F) is the fourth sentence, it can be viewed that the sentence in the option (G) makes a connection with it. The subject “It” in this case refers to the process of “collaboration” as mentioned in the sentence (F). Thus, it should be the follow-up or fifth sentence of the paragraph. Hence (c) is the correct choice.
- 25. (b);** Among the given statements, the sentence (B) specifies certain factors that influence attendance in the education sector, which indicates that it should be the first sentence of the paragraph. The sentence (A) follows the sentence (B) perfectly, furthering the derivation of the factors. The other three sentences (D), (C) and (E) form a chain following one after the another. Thus, the sentences in the sequence of **BADCE** form a coherent paragraph which is about the factors that lead a student to the classroom. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
- The correct sequence to form a meaningful paragraph is **FADECB**.
- 26. (e);**
- 27. (c);**
- 28. (d);**
- 29. (e);**
- 30. (b);**

...



STUDY TIPS

For solving fillers an aspirant must start building his/her vocabulary. Also, a sentence will give an idea or hint about the word that must be filled. Sometimes grammar helps in eliminating few options. Therefore, look for the tense, singular and plural nouns etc. In fillers also, the word before the blank helps in finding the correct word. Therefore, understanding of the usage of the word in different aspects is very important.

Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-10): In question given below there are two statements, each statement consists of two blanks. You have to choose the option which provides the correct set of words that fits both the blanks in both the statements appropriately and in the same order making them meaningful and grammatically correct.

- (1) Confidence was increasing that men, through _____ and effective action, could _____ their existence and even prolong their lives.
 (2) Others, perhaps with greater _____ wanted the struggle to continue in order to _____ the conditions of the peasants in the countryside.
 (a) prodigal, fortify
 (b) discrimination, vitiate
 (c) improvidence, remediate
 (d) foresight, ameliorate
 (e) shortsightedness, blemish
- (1) A shopkeeper with red pimples on his cheeks near the nose, and a calm, _____, calculating expression on his plump face, hurriedly and _____ approached the officer, swinging his arms.
 (II) The party has been _____ with its representatives and today some of them have become _____ rich and some even preach a gospel of wealth.
 (a) relentless, modestly
 (b) persistent, ostentatiously
 (c) faltering, calmly
 (d) vacillating, plainly
 (e) hesitant, moderately
- (I) The legal system currently punishes the most _____ forms of child abuse and neglect, but such crimes are _____ to prove.
 (II) Demonetization was the most _____ step taken by Modi government and it made the life of common people _____ for next few months.
 (a) modest, brutal
 (b) concealed, facile
 (c) unobtrusive, comfortable
 (d) inconspicuous, superficial
 (e) egregious, arduous

- (I) His plans, probably not very definite, were disturbed by an _____ message from the queen, ordering him not to return to England without her _____.
 (II) The events which were taking place in Europe made it _____ to send home a part of the army of Africa, and Medea gave his _____ for the same.
 (a) dispensable, revocation
 (b) unimportant, injunction
 (c) imperative, consent
 (d) discretionary, deterrence
 (e) inconsequential, embargo
- (I) The _____ modern being is a bit like Howard Roark, who in Ayn Rand's The Fountainhead sits atop a metaphorical mountain _____ to view life from a distance.
 (II) For the subordinates, the _____ managerial role was to create a supportive environment within which they could prosper professionally without being _____ by anyone.
 (a) quintessential, condemned
 (b) substandard, endorsed
 (c) atrocious, eulogized
 (d) ordinary, consecrated
 (e) mediocre, venerated
- [I] The question that had _____ Pierre on the Mozhaysk hill and all that day now seemed to him quite clear and completely _____.
 [II] For the ancients these _____ questions were _____ by a belief in the direct participation of the Deity in human affairs.
 (a) flustered, vague (b) answered, tangled
 (c) baffled, unsettled (d) perturbed, solved
 (e) procrastinated, mystery
- [I] Land left _____ was occupied by colonial farmers, and over 2000 German _____ were introduced by Sir George and settled along the frontier (1858-1859).

- [II] The building was _____ for decades after that, _____ who didn't pass the required intelligence tests were moved to these rooms until their eventual deportations.
- (a) engaged, refugees
 (b) populated, fighters
 (c) reliable, revolutionaries
 (d) occupied, soldiers
 (e) derelict, immigrants
8. [I] Some of the employees, in their _____ to win the business of wealthy Americans with a _____ for fibbing to the taxman, seem to have confused discretion with spycraft.
- [II] There will always be some employees with the _____ to pursue profits with minimal regard for larger social consequences; however, this _____ need not be fashionable.
- (a) zeal, predilection
 (b) enthusiasm, animosity
 (c) competition, antipathy
 (d) sloth, propensity
 (e) lethargy, druthers
9. [I] Mr. Bonar Law was whole-heartedly in favour of the _____ and frequently _____ his Conservative friends to remain true to it
- [II] As a single person, I find it very difficult to fight the _____ of my neighbors who are against the installation of a neighborhood charter, so I solemnly _____ the higher authorities to stand in my support.
- (a) alliance, impoverished
 (b) union, trespassed
 (c) combination, appealed
 (d) affiliation, declined
 (e) coalition, adjured
10. [I] After a poor display in a tour match, in which Pathan was hit for 70 runs in 12 overs and appeared _____, he was dropped from the Test team as V. R. V. Singh became the third pace bowler, _____ a news channel.
- [II] Most citizens of Juarez are somewhat _____ with the _____ routinely _____ accounts of killings by rival drug lords or dueling gang members.
- (a) bored, created
 (b) jaded, reported
 (c) energized, declared
 (d) fatigued, translated
 (e) excited, recorded

Directions (11-15): In each of the questions given below, a paragraph is given which has some blanks and those blanks must be filled with the same word out of five words given below it. You must choose that same as your answer and fill up the blanks with that appropriate answer.

11. After a muted Onam, Kerala woke up on Sunday to the reality of providing _____ to the humongous number of stranded people and to the enormity of rehabilitation and restoration of normal life. According to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who held a review of the _____ and rehabilitation work on Sunday, 462456 persons are still housed in 1435 _____ camps.
- (a) Nonchalance (b) Hindrance (c) Succor
 (d) Deluge (e) Torrent
12. Four fresh recruits planning to enter Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) for arms training were _____ in the frontier district of Kupwara on Sunday. The four were _____ after a brief gunfight in the Kupwara district. Extreme restraint was exercised, and opportunity was given to the militants to surrender. The four surrendered and subsequently _____.
- (a) zapped (b) killed (c) spawned
 (d) arrested (e) eliminated
13. Former PM Manmohan Singh has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that the historic Teen Murti complex, _____ to the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru, should be left undisturbed. It comes in the wake of reports that the Modi government wants to create a museum _____ to all Prime Ministers in the Teen Murti complex. Even his political rivals _____ their reverence to his distinctiveness and greatness, said Dr. Singh.
- (a) posited (b) dedicated (c) belonged
 (d) imprinted (e) altered
14. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra on Sunday called upon law students to engage in the practice of 'cause lawyering' and develop the idea of serviceability to law by taking up pro bono cases to protect human _____, _____ of individuals and _____ of under-privileged.
- (a) succor (b) travesty
 (c) equanimity (d) deluge
 (e) rights
15. Mr. Bhagat, a loco pilot of the Bamanhat-Siliguri Jn. passenger train applied the brakes after spotting a _____ of elephants close to the track between Sivok and Gumla stations in northern West Bengal on August 24 evening. My assistant [Mr. Kumar] spotted the _____ at about 5.35 p.m. The _____ was not visible from my side of the locomotive because of a bend in the track.
- (a) herd (b) pronouncement
 (c) army (d) fleet (e) swarm

Directions (16-20): In the following question, there are three statements with a missing word in each case. There are four words given below each question which can be used to fill up the blanks with the same word in each sentence to make it meaningful. Choose the correct alternative among the five options given below each question which satisfies the meaning of the sentences with the proper usage of word(s) in each case. If all four words are feasible, choose option (e) i.e., "All (I), (II), (III) and (IV)" as your answer.

16. (1) Never mind that the Turkish supremo did his best to _____ the Kurdish-led defence of Kobani against an IS assault.

(2) To do what the superior power requires of him, he must _____ his inclinations.

(3) Turkish security forces have been involved in a long-running campaign to _____ Daesh attacks.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| (I) impede | (II) thwart |
| (III) inhibit | (IV) facilitate |
| (a) Only (I) | |
| (b) Both (I) and (II) | |
| (c) Both (II) and (IV) | |
| (d) Only (I), (II) and (III) | |
| (e) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV) | |

17. (1) Mathletics is described as an engaging, supportive online learning resource _____ at primary school level maths curriculum, allowing children to play live mental arithmetic games against other children from all over the world.

(2) Military force would be applied in a purer form and _____ primarily against the military capabilities of an opponent.

(3) These definitions were specifically _____ at Indigenous Australians, and were prevalent on the majority of the word's entries up until recently.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| (I) targeted | (II) aimed |
| (III) directed | (IV) intended |
| (a) Only (I) | |
| (b) Only (II) | |
| (c) Both (III) and (IV) | |
| (d) Only (I), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV) | |

18. (1) The Museum of Geographical Heritage is among recent initiatives that promise to expand the scope of the museum beyond a _____.

(2) As may be imagined he was a _____ of much valuable and varied information.

(3) Brush with Fame is a chance for readers of The Canton _____ to share photos of their chance encounters with celebrities and the famous folks who walk among us.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| (I) shade | (II) repository |
| (III) wealth | (IV) dungeon |

- (a) Only (II)
- (b) Both (I) and (III)
- (c) Both (II) and (III)
- (d) Both (I) and (IV)
- (e) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV)

19. (1) Contrary to the popular belief that people tend to be more satisfied with an increase in their wage, a new study suggests that it may be temporary and not have a _____ effect on job satisfaction.

(2) Hermione knew something of the _____ infidelities of Neapolitan men.

(3) Inside the house she heard the _____, energetic sound of hammering.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| (I) persistent | (II) lingering |
| (III) intermittent | (IV) yielding |
| (a) Only (I) | |
| (b) Both (I) and (II) | |
| (c) Only (I), (II) and (IV) | |
| (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV) | |

20. (1) It has been a victory for democracy in Hong Kong, and the signal emitted by the island nation's highest court must be particularly _____ for China.

(2) At that instant a dull but _____ thump was heard on the roof overhead.

(3) Asserting that the inaugural edition of the Khelo India School Games has been a _____ success, Sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore hoped on Tuesday that it will help to improve India's performance in the international arena.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| (I) emphatic | (II) phenomenal |
| (III) resounding | (IV) massive |
| (a) Only (IV) | |
| (b) Both (II) and (III) | |
| (c) Only (I), (II) and (III) | |
| (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) All (I), (II), (III) and (IV) | |

Direction (21-25): In question given below there are two statements, each statement consists of two blanks. You have to choose the option which provides the correct set of words that fits both the blanks in both the statements appropriately and in the same order making them meaningful and grammatically correct.

21. (1) The alliance between the PDP and the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir began as an act of necessity, persisted due to sunk-costs and political _____, and has finally ended as a result of political _____.

(2) Burke carried into the world of theory those politics of _____ as well as _____ of which Walpole had been the practical originator.

- (a) infeasibility, disadvantage
- (b) impracticality, appropriateness
- (c) expediency, opportunism
- (d) unwise, timelessness
- (e) dilemma, losses

22. (1) One can understand the banks' _____ to switch to the lower MCLR-based rates, given the multiple pressures they face, including record levels of NPAs, and _____ treasury losses.
- (2) But as time progressed, his obvious _____ to arranged marriage presented a _____ problem in front of his parents.
- (a) willingness, astonishing
 (b) assurance, ordinary
 (c) certainty, prosaic
 (d) suspicion, forgettable
 (e) reluctance, noteworthy
23. (1) Traditionally, the services of outside experts were _____ through consultative processes, a practice quite _____ with the erstwhile Planning Commission and to some extent with its new avatar, the NITI Aayog.
- (2) Alexander _____ himself of the defeat of the French to break the power of the Orsini, following the general tendency of all the princes of the day to crush the _____ feudatories and establish a centralized despotism.
- (a) satisfied, restricted
 (b) availed, widespread
 (c) missed, compelled
 (d) hindered, restrained
 (e) bestowed, circumscribed
24. (1) Democrats and Republicans alike have expressed deep concern about the ethics of using children, facing _____ from separation from their parents, to _____ further undocumented border crossings.
- (2) Not every employee is prepared for such _____, even though studies show that low price stocks _____ investments, in the long run.
- (a) equanimity, animate
 (b) complacence, distress
 (c) contentment, galvanize
 (d) trauma, dissuade
 (e) alleviation, invigorate
25. (1) Farmer's collectives such as Farmer Producer Organizations need to be _____ and these would be critical to _____ the ZBNF (Zero Budget Natural Farming) programme.

- (2) Only a well _____ military dictatorship would be capable of _____ an ordered society in the aftermath of a severe conflict.
- (a) confuted, bypassing
 (b) embedded, nurturing
 (c) established, sustaining
 (d) furnished, repudiating
 (e) authenticated, resisting

Directions (26-30): In each of the following questions, a sentence is given with a blank. There are five phrases given below each sentence, one out of which can be used in the blank to form a meaningful sentence. Choose the most appropriate phrase among the five options that makes the sentence contextually meaningful.

26. More children growing up in a world so increasingly diverse that stock racial identities no longer _____.
- (a) call off (b) hold up (c) leave out
 (d) blow up (e) bring up
27. A pleasant spoken young constable arrived at Riverview with a warrant and asked if he might _____ the boat.
- (a) turn up (b) take down (c) make out
 (d) make up (e) look over
28. We came into the theatre at about two for a _____ Matt came in as well and he was struggling with his voice.
- (a) put out (b) put up (c) run away
 (d) run through (e) run into
29. Jet needs to urgently _____ its cost strategy as it does not have enough funds to continue operations for more than two months.
- (a) work out (b) warm up (c) wake up
 (d) turn down (e) take out
30. Cameron Borthwick-Jackson hopes to make up for lost time and _____ his best as the Manchester United left-back begins his season-long loan at Scunthorpe.
- (a) get up (b) get back at
 (c) get back to (d) get along with
 (e) get around

Solutions

1. (d) 'foresight, ameliorate' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete. Hence, option (d) is the most appropriate choice. **Foresight** means the ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future. **Ameliorate** means make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better. **Prodigal** means spending money or using resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant. **Vitiate** means spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of. **Impropvidence** means the quality or state of not foreseeing and providing for the future. **Remediate** means to settle (disputes, strikes, etc.) as an intermediary between parties; reconcile. **Blemish** means a small mark or flaw which spoils the appearance of something.
2. (b); 'persistent, ostentatiously' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete. Hence, option (b) is the most appropriate choice. **Persistent** means continuing firmly or obstinately in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition. **Ostentatiously** means in a pretentious or showy way designed to impress. **Relentless** means unceasingly intense. **Modestly** means in an unassuming manner; without vanity or arrogance. **Faltering** means losing strength or momentum. **Vacillating** means wavering between different opinions or actions; irresolute.
3. (e); 'egregious, arduous' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete. Hence, option (e) is the most appropriate choice. **Egregious** means shocking. **Arduous** means difficult and tiring. **Brutal** means savagely violent. **Facile** means ignoring the true complexities of an issue; superficial. **Unobtrusive** means not conspicuous or attracting attention. **Inconspicuous** means not clearly visible or attracting attention. **Superficial** means appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely.
4. (c); 'imperative, consent' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete. Hence, option (c) is the most appropriate choice.

- Imperative** means of vital importance; crucial. **Consent** means permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. **Dispensable** means able to be replaced or done without; superfluous. **Revocation** means the official cancellation of a decree, decision, or promise. **Injunction** means an authoritative warning or order. **Discretionary** means available for use at the discretion of the user. **Deterrence** means the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. **Inconsequential** means not important or significant. **Embargo** means an official ban on any activity.
5. (a); 'quintessential, condemned' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete. Hence, option (a) is the most appropriate choice. **Quintessential** means representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class. **Condemned** means express complete disapproval of. **Substandard** means below the usual or required standard. **Endorsed** means declare one's public approval or support of. **Atrocious** means horrifyingly wicked. **Eulogized** means praise highly in speech or writing. **Consecrated** means make or declare (something, typically a church) sacred. **Venerated** means regard with great respect.
6. (d); The most appropriate set of words that appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph is 'perturbed, solved'. **'perturbed'** is an **adjective** which means anxious or unsettled; upset. Moreover, '**solved**' is a **verb** which means to find an answer to, explanation for, or means of effectively dealing with (a problem or mystery). Since, all the other sets of words fail to form a comprehensive sentence, **option (d)** becomes the most suitable answer choice. **Flustered** means make (someone) agitated or confused. **Tangled** means twisted together untidily; matted. **Baffled** means totally bewildered or perplexed. **Procrastinated** means delay or postpone action; put off doing something.

7. (e); The most appropriate set of words that appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph is 'derelict, immigrants'. 'Derelict' is an **adjective** which means in a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect. Moreover, 'immigrants' is a **noun** which means a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. Since, all the other sets of words fail to form a comprehensive sentence, **option (e)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

8. (a); The most appropriate set of words that appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph is 'zeal, predilection'. 'Zeal' is a **noun** which means great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective. Moreover, 'predilection' is a **noun** which means a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favour of something. Since, all the other sets of words fail to form a comprehensive sentence, **option (a)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

Animosity means strong hostility.

Antipathy means a deep-seated feeling of aversion.

Sloth means reluctance to work or make an effort; laziness.

Propensity means an inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way.

9. (e); The most appropriate set of words that appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph is 'coalition, adjured'. 'Coalition' is a **noun** which means a temporary alliance for combined action, especially of political parties forming a government. Moreover, 'adjured' is a **verb** which means urge or request (someone) solemnly or earnestly to do something. Since, all the other sets of words fail to form a comprehensive sentence, **option (e)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

10. (b); The most appropriate set of words that appropriately fit in the context of the paragraph is 'jaded, reported'. 'Jaded' is an **adjective** which means bored or lacking enthusiasm, typically after having had too much of something. Moreover, 'reported' is a **verb** which means give a spoken or written account of something that one has observed, heard, done, or investigated. Since, all the other sets of words fail to form a comprehensive sentence, **option (b)** becomes the most suitable answer choice.

Fatigued means cause (someone) to feel exhausted.

Energized means give vitality and enthusiasm to.

11. (c); Stranded people requires 'Relief'. People should be housed in 'Relief' camps. CM would have held a review of the 'Relief' and rehabilitation work. Nonchalance [noun] means 'The state of being nonchalant; calm behavior that suggests you are not interested or do not care; calmness; equanimity; coolness;'. Succor [noun] means 'assistance and support in times of hardships and distress'.

Deluge [noun] means 'a severe flood'; Torrent [noun] means 'a severe flood'; Among the given options, 'succor' has a meaning very close to the meaning of 'relief'. Hence, 'Succor' is the correct answer and option (c) is the correct answer.

12. (d); The last two sentences give the hint for the word which would fill the blank. 'Extreme restraint was exercised, and opportunity was given to the militants to surrender. The four surrendered'. The highlighted sentences suggest that the militants weren't killed or eliminated because extreme restraint was exercised, and the militants surrendered.

Zap [verb] means 'go quickly'; Spawn [verb] '(of a fish, frog, mollusk, crustacean, etc) release or deposit eggs; produce (offspring)'; The words 'zapped' and 'spawned' are irrelevant to the context of the sentences.

It makes more sense that the surrendered militants were **arrested**. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

13. (b); Posit [verb] means 'to put forward as a fact or as a basis for argument'. The meaning of the word is irrelevant in the context of the given blanks. Similarly, the meaning of the words 'belonged', 'imprinted' and 'altered' is irrelevant in the context of the given blanks.

The Teen Murti Complex should be '**attributed**' to Nehru Ji. The meaning of the word '**dedicated**' is closer to the meaning of the word '**attributed**'. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

14. (e); Succor [noun] means 'assistance and support in times of hardships and distress'; Travesty [noun] means 'something that fails to represent the values and qualities that it is intended to represent, in a way that is shocking or offensive';

Equanimity [noun] means 'calmness and composure, especially in a difficult situation'; Deluge [noun] means 'a severe flood';

The words succor, travesty, equanimity and deluge are irrelevant in the context of the blanks.

- There is something called '**rights**' of humans, **rights** of individuals, and **rights** of underprivileged;
The word '**rights**' correctly fits the blank.
Hence, option (e) is the correct answer.
- 15. (a);** Only the option (a) 'herd', upon filling the blanks, satisfy the contextual and grammatical requirements of the blanks.
Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.
herd [noun] means 'a large group of animals, especially hooved mammals, that live together or are kept together as livestock';
Pronouncement [noun] means 'a formal or authoritative announcement or declaration';
Army [noun] means 'a group of soldiers';
Fleet [noun] means 'a group of ships';
Swarm [noun] means 'a large group of flying insects';
- 16. (d);** All three words (I), (II) and (III) are befitting to the given blanks as they give the similar meaning in all three cases to make the sentences meaningful. All three words "**impede**", "**thwart**" and "**inhibit**" describe the same meaning "**prevent**". Hence option (d) is the correct choice.
Impede means delay or prevent (someone or something) by obstructing them; hinder.
Thwart means prevent (someone) from accomplishing something.
Inhibit means hinder, restrain, or prevent (an action or process).
Facilitate means make (an action or process) easy or easier.
- 17. (e);** All the given words can be used in the provided blanks as they all give the similar meaning to the three sentences making them meaningful. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
Targeted means aimed or directed (something).
Intended means designed or destined something for a particular purpose.
- 18. (a);** Among the given choices, only the second word gives a contextual meaning to all the three sentences. Other words are not suitable in the context of adding meaning to the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.
Repository means a person or thing regarded as a store of information or in which a particular quality may be found.
Shade means a position of relative inferiority or obscurity.
Dungeon means a strong underground prison cell, especially in a castle.

- 19. (b);** Both the first and the second words can be used in the provided blanks to make them meaningful. Both the words give the similar meaning to the sentences. Hence option (b) is the correct choice.
Persistent means continuing to exist or occur over a prolonged period.
Lingering means lasting for a long time or slow to end.
Intermittent means occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady.
Yielding means (of a person) complying with the requests or desires of others.
- 20. (e);** All the four words are correct enough to fit into the provided blanks and thus adding the similar meaning in all the cases. All the four words mean the same. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.
Emphatic means expressing something forcibly and clearly.
Phenomenal means remarkable or exceptional, especially exceptionally good.
Resounding means unmistakable; emphatic.
Massive means large and heavy or solid.
- 21. (c);** 'expediency, opportunism' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete.
Expediency means the quality of being convenient and practical despite possibly being improper or immoral; convenience.
Opportunism means the taking of opportunities as and when they arise, regardless of planning or principle.
Here, the first sentence talks about persistence of alliance between PDP and BJP, such alliances persists because of political expediency. Hence, option (c) is the most appropriate choice.
Infeasibility means not feasible; impracticable.
Impracticality means not practical; not wise to put into or keep in practice or effect.
Unwisdom means lack of wisdom.
Dilemma means a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially ones that are equally undesirable.
- 22. (e);** 'reluctance, noteworthy' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete.
Reluctance means unwillingness or disinclination to do something.
Noteworthy means worth paying attention to; significant.
Hence, option (e) is the most appropriate choice.

Willingness means the quality or state of being prepared to do something; readiness.

Astonishing means extremely surprising or impressive; amazing.

Prosaic means having or using the style or diction of prose as opposed to poetry; lacking imaginativeness or originality.

Suspicion means a feeling or thought that something is possible, likely, or true.

23. (b); 'availed, widespread' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete.

Availed means use or take advantage of (an opportunity or available resource); help or benefit

Widespread means found or distributed over a large area or number of people.

In the first sentence 'availed' means taken or obtained and in the second sentence it means benefited. Hence, option (b) is the most appropriate choice.

Compelled means forced or obliged (someone) to do something.

Hindered means make it difficult for (someone) to do something or for (something) to happen.

Restrained means kept under control.

Bestowed means confer or present (an honour, right, or gift).

Circumscribed means restrict (something) within limits.

24. (d); 'trauma, discourage' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete.

Trauma means a deeply distressing or disturbing experience.

Dissuade means persuade (someone) not to take a particular course of action.

Hence, option (d) is the most appropriate choice.

Equanimity means calmness and composure, especially in a difficult situation.

Animate means give inspiration, encouragement, or renewed vigour to.

Complacence means a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.

Distress means extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain.

Contentment means a state of happiness and satisfaction.

Galvanize means shock or excite (someone) into taking action.

Alleviation means the action or process of making suffering, deficiency, or a problem less severe.

Invigorate means give strength or energy to.

25. (c); 'established, sustaining' is the pair of words that fits in the two sentences to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually complete.

Established means having existed or done something for a long time and therefore recognized and generally accepted.

Sustaining means strengthening or supporting physically or mentally

Hence, option (c) is the most appropriate choice.

Confuted means prove (a person or an assertion or accusation) to be wrong.

Embedded means fixed (an object) firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass

Repudiating means refusing to accept; rejecting.

Authenticated means proved or showed (something) to be true, genuine, or valid

26. (b); The most suitable phrase to fill the blank is 'hold up' which means to remain strong or vigorous. All the other phrases fail to provide the appropriate context to the sentence. Hence, option (b) becomes the most viable answer choice.

Call off means to decide that a planned event will not happen

Leave out means to not include or mention (someone or something)

Blow up means explode

Bring up means (chiefly of a ship) come to a stop.

27. (e); The most suitable phrase to fill the blank is 'look over' which means a quick inspection of something; a survey. All the other phrases fail to provide the appropriate context to the sentence. Hence, option (e) becomes the most viable answer choice.

Turn up means be found, especially by chance, after being lost.

Take down means a police raid or arrest.

Make out means make progress; fare.

Make up means invent a story, lie, or plan.

28. (d); The most suitable phrase to fill the blank is 'run through' which means to practise something so that it is correct for a performance or test. All the other phrases fail to provide the appropriate context to the sentence. Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.

put out means cause someone trouble or inconvenience.

put up means stay temporarily in accommodation other than one's own home.

Run-away means escape from a place, person, or situation.

run into means collide with.

29. (a); The most suitable phrase to fill the blank is 'work out' which means to find the solution by thinking or talking about it. All the other phrases fail to provide the appropriate context to the sentence. Hence, option (a) becomes the most viable answer choice.

warm up means prepare for physical exertion or a performance by exercising or practising gently beforehand.

wake up means an instance of a person waking up or being woken up

turn down means a rejection or refusal.

take out means a bid (in a different suit) made in response to a bid or double by one's partner.

30. (c); The most suitable phrase to fill the blank is 'get back to' which means to return to someone or something. This phrase is often used to say that you will return with an answer to a question or a request at a later time. All the other phrases fail to provide the appropriate context to the sentence. Hence, option (c) becomes the most viable answer choice.

get up means (of wind or the sea) become strong or agitated.

get back at means take revenge on (someone).

get along with means another way of saying get on.

get around means deal successfully with (a problem).



Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Directions (1-4): In each of the following questions five options are given, of which one word is most nearly the same or opposite in meaning to the given word in the question. Find the correct option having either same or opposite meaning.

1. REPERCUSSION

- (a) Reliant
 - (b) Consequence
 - (c) Impertinence
 - (d) Prompting
 - (e) Callous

2. MASQUERADE

- (a) Contentious
 - (b) Pretense
 - (c) Belligerent
 - (d) Arrogant
 - (e) Reminiscent

3. Wither

- (a) Ingenious
 - (b) Gnawed
 - (c) Persistent
 - (d) Thrive
 - (e) Reverie

4. REPROBATE

- (a) Repudiate
 - (b) Strident
 - (c) Virtuous
 - (d) Flagrant
 - (e) Stoic

Directions (5 – 9): In the following questions, four words are given, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of the words which are either synonyms or antonyms of each other. If no such pair is formed, mark option (e) i.e., “none of these” as your answer choice.

5. (i) conclusion (ii) paradox
(iii) discrepancy (iv) pragmatic
(a) only (i) – (iv) (b) only (i) – (iii)
(c) only (ii) – (iii) (d) only (i) – (ii)
(e) none of these

6. (i) declaration (ii) modicum
(iii) laxity (iv) surveillance
(a) only (iii) – (iv) (b) only (i) – (iii)
(c) only (ii) – (iii) (d) only (i) – (ii)
(e) none of these

8. (i) prudent (ii) crucial
(iii) fluid (iv) reckless
(a) only (ii) – (iii) (b) only (i) – (iii)
(c) only (ii) – (iv) (d) only (i) – (iv)
(e) none of these

Directions (10-11): In the following questions, five words are given, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of **word(s) similar** in meaning with each other.

- 11.** (I) Abstention
(III) Travesty
(V) homage
(a) I and II
(c) II, IV and V
(e) I, III and IV

12. (II) Reverence
(IV) Veneration
(b) II and III
(d) I, II and V

Directions (12-16): Choose the word/group of words which is most **SIMILAR** in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in passage.

- 12. Impromptu**

 - (a) extempore
 - (b) enticing
 - (c) rapturous
 - (d) entralling
 - (e) enamouring

- 13. Peculiar**

 - (a) intuitive
 - (b) winsome
 - (c) queer
 - (d) imperious
 - (e) inciting

14. **Dire**

 - (a) devour
 - (b) revoke
 - (c) unprecedent
 - (d) appalling
 - (e) extraneous

- 15. Tapering off**

 - (a) tenable
 - (b) Abate
 - (c) ameliorate
 - (d) repudiate
 - (e) inundate

16. Inevitable

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| (a) testimony | (b) allude |
| (c) inexorable | (d) fester |
| (e) eerie | |

Directions (17-19): Choose the word/group of words which is most OPPOSITE in meaning to the word GIVEN WORD.

17. Provocative

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) valiant | (b) repressive |
| (c) chivalrous | (d) vigorous |
| (e) ingenuous | |

18. Looming

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) punitive | (b) humongous |
| (c) ambiguous | (d) inimitable |
| (e) receding | |

19. Detriment

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) exacerbate | (b) farthing |
| (c) privilege | (d) covet |
| (e) nuance | |

Directions (20-22): In the following questions, a word is given in bold, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of word (s) which is similar in meaning of the highlighted word.

20. Aberration

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| (I) Digression | (II) Diversion |
| (III) Eccentricity | (IV) Transgression |
| (a) Only (II) | (b) Only (I), (II) and (III) |
| (c) Both (III) and (IV) | (d) Both (I) and (II) |
| (e) All of these | |

21. Entrenching

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| (I) Establishing | (II) Ensconcing |
| (III) Dislodging | (IV) Defenestrating |
| (a) only (I) | (b) both (I) and (II) |

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (c) both (II) and (III) | (d) Both (III) and (IV) |
| (e) only (IV) | |

22. Pared

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| (I) Sheared | (II) Pruned |
| (III) Whittled | (IV) Expatiated |
| (a) both (II) and (III) | |
| (b) only (I), (III) and (IV) | |
| (c) only (I), (II) and (III) | |
| (d) only (II), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) both (I) and (IV) | |

Directions (23-25): In the following questions, a word is given in bold, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of word (s) which is opposite in meaning of the highlighted word.

23. Threshold

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| (I) brink | (II) verge |
| (III) portal | (IV) nadir |
| (a) both (II) and (III) | (b) only (IV) |
| (c) only (III) | (d) only (I) |
| (e) both (I) and (IV) | |

24. Pegged

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (I) Noted | (II) Overlooked |
| (III) Discovered | (IV) Unearthed |
| (a) only (I) | (b) both (I) and (III) |
| (c) both (III) and (IV) | (d) only (II) |
| (e) all of these | |

25. Hefty

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| (I) gaunt | (II) covet |
| (III) humongous | (IV) concoct |
| (a) Only (I) | |
| (b) Only (II) and (III) | |
| (c) Only (I), (II) and (IV) | |
| (d) Only (II), (III) and (IV) | |
| (e) All of the above | |

Solutions

1. **(b);** Option (b) is the correct choice.

Repercussion means an unintended consequence of an event or action, especially an unwelcome one hence **consequence** is the word which is most similar in meaning to this.

Callous means showing or having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others.

Prompting means the action of saying something to persuade, encourage, or remind someone to do or say something.

Impertinence means lack of respect; rudeness.

2. **(b);** Masquerade means a false show or pretence. Hence masquerade and pretense are similar in meaning.

Pretense means an attempt to make something that is not the case appear true.

Belligerent means a nation or person engaged in war or conflict, as recognized by international law.

Reminiscent means suggesting something by resemblance.

3. **(d);** **Wither** means (to cause) to become weak and dry and decay hence **thrive** which means (of a child, animal, or plant) grow or develop well or vigorously is the word most opposite in meaning to the given word.

Reverie means dreamy.

Gnawed means bite at or nibble something persistently.

Persistent means continuing firmly or obstinately in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.

4. (c); Reprobate and virtuous are opposite in meaning hence option (c) is the correct choice for the given question.
Reprobate means an unprincipled person.
Virtuous means having or showing high moral standards.
Stoic means indifferent to pleasure or pain
Strident means harsh
Repudiate means to disown.
Flagrant means glaringly wrong
5. (c); The most suitable words that are synonym of each other are 'paradox' and 'discrepancy'. 'paradox' means a seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true while 'discrepancy' means an illogical or surprising lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts. All the other words are irrelevant to each other. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
Pragmatic means dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.
6. (a); The most suitable words that are opposite of each other are 'surveillance' and 'combat'. 'surveillance' means close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal while 'laxity' means lack of strictness or care. All the other words are not related to each other. Hence, option (c) is the most viable answer choice.
Declaration means a formal or explicit statement or announcement.
Modicum means a small quantity of a particular thing, especially something desirable or valuable.
7. (c); The most suitable words that are synonym of each other are 'tussle' and 'combat'. 'tussle' means a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically in order to obtain or achieve something; while, 'combat' means fighting between armed forces. Since, they both are synonyms of each other, option (c) becomes the most viable answer choice.
Historical means of or concerning history or past events
Cumbrous means slow or complicated and therefore inefficient.
8. (d); The most suitable words that are opposite of each other are 'prudent' and 'reckless'. 'prudent' means acting with or showing care and thought for the future, while; 'reckless' means heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions; rash or impetuous. Hence, option (d) is the most viable answer choice.

- Crucial** means decisive or critical, especially in the success or failure of something.
Fluid means smoothly elegant or graceful.
9. (a); The most suitable words that are synonym of each other are 'itinerant' and 'nomads'. 'itinerant' means travelling from place to place while; 'nomads' means a person who does not stay long in the same place; a wanderer. All the other words are irrelevant to each other. Hence, option (a) is the most viable answer choice.
Eradication means the complete destruction of something.
penchant means a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.
10. (d); Here, Affliction and Torment are similar in meaning to each other. **Affliction** means the state of being in pain, which is similar in meaning to 'torment'.
Wean means be strongly influenced by (something).
Staple means a main or important element of something.
Guise means an external form, appearance, or manner of presentation, typically concealing the true nature of something.
11. (c); Here, Reverence, Veneration and Homage are synonym to one another. **Reverence** means deep respect for someone or something, which is similar to veneration and exaltation.
Abstention means restraint in one's consumption; abstinence.
Travesty means a false, absurd, or distorted representation of something.
12. (a); **Impromptu** means done without being planned or rehearsed. Hence it has same meaning as extempore.
Enamouring means be filled with love for.
13. (c); **Peculiar** means different to what is normal or expected, strange. Hence it has same meaning as queer.
Winsome means attractive or appealing in a fresh, innocent way.
Imperious means arrogant and domineering.
Intuitive means easy to use and understand.
14. (d); **Dire** means extremely serious or urgent. Hence it has same meaning as appalling.
Extraneous means irrelevant or unrelated to the subject being dealt with.
Unprecedent means never done or known before.
Revoke means cancel officially.
Devour means destroy completely.

15. (b); **Tapering off** means to become gradually smaller or weaker. Hence it has same meaning as **abate**. **Ameliorate** means become or make greater in size, amount. **Inundate** means overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with. **Repudiate** means refuse to accept, reject, deny. **Tenable** means able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection.
16. (c); **Inevitable** means certain to happen; unavoidable. Hence it has same meaning as inexorable. **Eerie** means strange and frightening. **Fester** means become septic; suppurate. **Allude** means suggest or call attention to indirectly; hint at. **Testimony** means evidence or proof of something.
17. (b); **Provocative** means causing anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately. Hence it has opposite meaning as repressive. **Ingenious** means clever, original, and inventive. **Chivalrous** means courteous and gallant, especially towards women. **Valiant** means possessing or showing courage or determination.
18. (e); **Looming** means appear as a vague form, especially one that is large or threatening. Hence it has opposite meaning as receding which means to retreat. **Inimitable** means so good or unusual as to be impossible to copy; unique. **Ambiguous** means not clear or decided. **Humongous** means huge or enormous. **Punitive** means inflicting or intended as punishment.
19. (c); **Detriment** means the state of being harmed or damaged. Hence it has opposite meaning as privilege which means advantage. **Covet** means desire. **Farthing** means least possible amount. **Exacerbate** means make worse. **Nuance** means variation, degree.
20. (b); Option (b) is the correct choice. **Aberration** means divergence which is a synonym of digression and eccentricity.
21. (b); **Entrenching** means establish (an attitude, habit, or belief) so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely. **Establishing and ensconcing** both mean the same. **Ensconcing** means settling. **Dislodging** means knocking or forcing out of position. **Defenestrating** means removing or dismissing (someone) from a position of power or authority.
22. (c); **Pared** means reduce (something) in size, extent, or quantity in a number of small successive stages. **Sheared** means have something cut off. **Pruned** means detached. **Whittled** means reduce something in size, amount, or extent by a gradual series of steps. **Expiated** means amplified.
23. (b); **Threshold** means a point of entry or beginning. The word that is in exact opposite to the given word is nadir. **Nadir** means the lowest or most unsuccessful point in a situation. **Brink** means edge. **Verge** means an extreme limit beyond which something specified will happen. **Portal** means a doorway, gate, or other entrance, especially a large and imposing one.
24. (d); **Pegged** means to find out. **Noted, discovered and unearthed** all mean the same. **Overlooked** is the only word which is opposite in meaning and it means failed to notice. Hence only option (d) is the answer.
25. (a); **Hefty** means large and heavy. Hence it has opposite meaning as gaunt. **Covet** means desire. **Humongous** means huge or enormous. **Concoct** means create or devise (a story or plan).



Practice Exercise Based on new Pattern

Direction (1-5): There are parts of statements in question given below which when connected using the correct sentence structure forms a complete single sentence without altering the meaning of the sentence given in the question. There are four options given below the question, choose the sentence that forms the correct formation of single sentence which is both grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. If none follows, choose (e) as your answer.

1. The conception of the world and of human life is controlled by natural law; is alien to Hebrew thought in general; is alien to the prophetic and liturgical Hebrew literature.

- (a) Because the conception of the world and of human life as controlled by natural law has been alien to Hebrew thought in general but is alien to the prophetic and liturgical Hebrew literature.
 (b) The conception of the world and of human life as controlled by natural law is alien not only to the prophetic and liturgical Hebrew literature but also to Hebrew thought in general.
 (c) Although the conception of the world and of human life is controlled by natural law is alien to the prophetic and liturgical Hebrew literature, so, it is also alien to Hebrew thought in general.
 (d) The conception of the world and of human life as controlled by natural law is alien not only to the prophetic and liturgical Hebrew literature but also to Hebrew thought in general.
 (e) None of the above is correct.

2. She is the mother of Ur, the personified fire of hell; mastered by Hibil and thrown in chains down to the black water; in anger and pride made a violent onset on the world of light; imprisoned within seven iron and seven golden walls.

- (a) She is the mother of Ur, the personified fire of hell, who in anger and pride made a violent onset on the world of light, but was master by Hibil and thrown in chains down to the black water, and imprisoned within seven iron and seven golden walls.

(b) She is the mother of Ur, the personified fire of hell, who in anger and pride make a violent onset on the world of light, but was mastered by Hibil and thrown in chains down to the black water, and imprisoned within seven iron and seven golden walls.

(c) She is the mother of Ur, the personified fire of hell, who in anger and pride made a violent onset on the world of light, but was mastered by Hibil and thrown in chains down to the black water, and imprisoned within seven iron and seven golden walls.

(d) She is the mother of Ur, the personified fire of hell, who was mastered by Hibil and thrown in chains down to the black water because in anger and pride he made a violent onset on the world of light and imprisoned within seven iron and seven golden walls.

(e) None of the above is correct.

3. The movement gradually assumed the form of terrorism; the natural result was that the reactionary tendencies of the government were strengthened; the movement was aimed at the assassination of prominent officials; the movement was aimed at the assassination of even the emperor himself.

(a) The movement gradually assumed the form of terrorism because it aimed at the assassination of prominent officials and even of the emperor himself as the natural result was that the reactionary tendencies of the government were strengthened.

(b) The movement gradually assumed the form of terrorism, and aimed at the assassination of prominent officials, and even of the emperor himself, and the natural result was that the reactionary tendencies of the government were strengthened.

(c) The movement gradually assumed the form of terrorism and aimed at the assassination of prominent officials, and even of the emperor himself, because the natural result was that the reactionary tendencies of the government were strengthened.

- (d) The movement gradually assumed the form of terrorism, and aimed at the assassination of prominent officials, and even of the emperor himself, but the natural result was that the reactionary tendencies of the government was strengthen.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
4. Gagern attempted to influence the Prussian Northern Union in the direction of the national policy; soon realizing the hopelessness of any good results from the vacillating policy of Prussia, he retired from the contest; he took part in the sessions of the Erfurt parliament; as a major in the service of the Schleswig-Holstein government, took part in the Danish War of 1850.
- (a) Gagern attempted to influence the Prussian Northern Union in the direction of the national policy, but he took part in the sessions of the Erfurt parliament, and, soon realizing the hopelessness of any good results from the vacillating policy of Prussia, he retired from the contest because as a major in the service of the Schleswig-Holstein government, took part in the Danish War of 1850.
- (b) Gagern attempted to influence the Prussian Northern Union in the direction of the national policy and soon realizing the hopelessness of any good results from the vacillating policy of Prussia, he retired from the contest, so he took part in the sessions of the Erfurt parliament and as a major in the service of the Schleswig-Holstein government, took part in the Danish War of 1850.
- (c) Gagern attempted to influence the Prussian Northern Union in the direction of the national policy, and he took part in the sessions of the Erfurt parliament but, soon realizing the hopelessness of any good results from the vacillating policy of Prussia, he retires for the contest, and, as a major in the service of the Schleswig-Holstein government, took part in the Danish War of 1850.
- (d) Gagern attempted to influence the Prussian Northern Union in the direction of the national policy and took part in the sessions of the Erfurt parliament but, soon realizing the hopelessness of any good results from the vacillating policy of Prussia, he retired from the contest, and, as a major in the service of the Schleswig-Holstein government, took part in the Danish War of 1850.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
5. It was close enough to catch broadcasts of Phillies baseball and Eagles football; the city of Brotherly Love; it was far enough away to be isolated; most of the brutality associated;
- (a) While it was close enough to catch broadcasts of Phillies baseball and Eagles football, it was far enough away to be isolated from most of the brutality associated with the city of Brotherly Love.
- (b) Since it was close enough to catch broadcasts of Phillies baseball and Eagles football for the city of Brotherly Love, it was far enough away to be isolated with most of the brutality associated.
- (c) As it was close enough to catch broadcasts of Phillies baseball and Eagles football, it was far enough away to been isolated from most of the brutality associated with the city of Brotherly Love.
- (d) Because it was close enough to catch broadcasts of Phillies baseball and Eagles football, it was far enough away to been isolated from most of the brutality associated with the city of Brotherly Love.
- (e) None of the above is correct.
- Directions (6-10):** In each of the following questions, various sentences are given, and you have to choose the one which has some or any grammatical error in it.
6. (a) Immediately after boarding the bus Mahesh asked the conductor that if he knew where the museum was.
- (b) Then I knelt down and opened my heart to her and poured out all the affection that was suffocating me.
- (c) She was decidedly pretty, but it is surprising, monsieur, how much prettier women seem to us when the day is fine at the beginning of the spring.
- (d) One morning on waking I saw from my window the blue sky glowing in the sun above the neighbouring houses.
- (e) My neighbour raised her eyes again, and this time, as I was still looking at her, she smiled decidedly.
7. (a) No longer able to bear with her anguish she surrendered her life to the ocean.
- (b) She experienced the summer grass beneath her feet and wore shoes that carried her over rocky terrain.
- (c) Since then many a seafarer has told stories of his encounters with the mermaid.
- (d) The success of our efforts depend upon the number of people who actually use the new methods.
- (e) She lost her love to as much greed as any man could acquire, greed for luxury , greed for temporary pleasure and greed through self absorbed advancement.

8. (a) By the Time he reaches his ship, time has crept ten fold and he soon finds himself a crippled old man, unable to board his ship and escape.
 (b) For Time is a treasure we rarely give credit to.
 (c) Hardly had he threw the ball when it fell on the ground.
 (d) Love no longer had value to him, her time meant little and her heart was no longer enough to offer him happiness.
 (e) And the journey from the cavern back to his ship would prove to be futile.
9. (a) We can earn our gold and silver, we can lose it all and earn it back.
 (b) Shyam is working in our organization for the last few years in the publication department.
 (c) In a state of anguish she travelled alone across miles of ocean until she reached the Island of Alchemy.
 (d) The morning starts with a bang or one bang after another, a series, a chorus - the same sound that lulled me to sleep the night before.
 (e) A vital strong man would soon find the treasure he carries become a little harder to hold, and each step he makes him age.
10. (a) They talked for a while and then they will continue to play the game till tomorrow morning.
 (b) In any case, it would take me very little persuasion to accept a Chungwah though I often refuse others, and perhaps make secret enemies.
 (c) Anyway, I walk out and out the compound that houses the teachers and officials' residences, looking for a place to get some chow.
 (d) I walk down the four flights of the hotel building where I and others of my ilk are housed.
 (e) I sit and spend the morning thus, making friends and losing some and finally decide lunch can wait no longer.
- Directions (11-12):** In the following question, certain parts of the sentence are highlighted which may or may not contain grammatical errors. There are five alternatives given below each sentence, one of which may replace the existing highlighted parts to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Choose the most appropriate alternative as your answer. If the sentence is grammatically correct, as given, and doesn't require any correction, choose option (e) i.e., "No replacement required" as your answer.
11. The Divine Mother **is bounded to respond** to the call of her children. Renunciation of worldly matters **may depends on circumstances**, but inward renunciation is an essential part of the process.
 (a) is bound to respond, may depend on circumstances
 (b) are bound for responding, might depends on circumstances
- (c) was bounded to respond, must be dependent in circumstances
 (d) were bounded to respond, can depends on circumstance
 (e) no replacement required
12. The Indian rupee **has actually appreciated** against the US dollar in real terms in recent quarters, **which is calculated after** taking into account the rise in domestic prices.
 (a) have actually got appreciation, that are calculated after
 (b) has been appreciated actually, that calculates after
 (c) had been actually appreciated, which calculated after
 (d) would gain actual appreciation, that has been calculated after
 (e) No replacement required
- Directions (13-17):** In the following passage against each number four words are suggested in bold which may or may not fit into the sentence contextually. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. Find out the most appropriate alternative reflecting the word which doesn't fit into the blank appropriately and thus fail to give a contextual meaning to the paragraph. If no such error is there mark (e) i.e. "all are correct" as your answer choice.
- (13) The decision by the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee to raise **benchmark** interest rates again by 25 basis points is a **reckless** one. This is the second successive rate increase in as many months, a response to **mounting** uncertainties on the inflation front. (14) Continuing **volatility** in crude oil prices, the recent softening **regarding**, and its **vulnerability** to geopolitical tensions and supply **disruptions** is one of the main risks to the inflation outlook. (15) Among the RBI's other concerns are **volatile** global financial markets, possibilities of fiscal **stabilization** at the Central and State levels, the likely impact of the increase in the minimum support price for kharif crops, and the **staggered** impact of upward **revisions** to house rent allowance paid by State governments. (16) Rainfall has so far been 6% below the long-period average and **deficient** over a wider area than last year — more than a fifth of the country's 36 sub-divisions have reported **shortfalls**. This has **resulted** in a drop in the total **sown** area under kharif. (17) The monetary authority has **generated** the need to keep a close watch on rain over the **remainder** of the season, given the risks regional **imbalances** may pose to paddy output and CPI inflation. The June round of the RBI's own survey of household inflation expectations reveals that families see prices **hardening** even further over both the three- and 12-month horizons.
13. (a) benchmark (b) reckless
 (c) mounting (d) front
 (e) no error

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 14. (a) volatility
(c) vulnerability
(e) no error | (b) regarding
(d) disruptions | (B) The conservative prime minister said that India would be only the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China. |
| 15. (a) volatile
(c) staggered
(e) no error | (b) stabilization
(d) revisions | (C) There is no other democracy that is so large and so diverse. |
| 16. (a) deficient
(c) resulted
(e) no error | (b) shortfalls
(d) sown | (D) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day announcement that the country will send a manned mission to space by 2022 is truly remarkable. |
| 17. (a) generated
(c) imbalances
(e) no error | (b) remainder
(d) hardening | (a) Only B-A (b) Only C-D
(c) Only A-B (d) Both B-C and A-D
(e) None of these |

Directions (18-20): In the questions given below few sentences are given which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Connect them by the word given above the statements in the best possible way without changing the intended meaning. Choose your answer accordingly from the options to form a correct, coherent sentence.

18. AS

- (A) Some residents in less affected cities such as Kochi have begun returning to their homes to assess the damage.
 (B) Water levels had fallen in the southern Indian state of Kerala and rain is predicted to ease in the coming days.
 (C) The severest flood warnings were withdrawn from districts across the state on Sunday.
 (D) Rescue operations continue to free thousands of people still marooned by the worst flooding in a century.
 (a) Only B-D (b) Only C-A (c) Only A-D
 (d) Only B-C (e) All of these

19. NOTWITHSTANDING

- (A) The fact is reckless lending would eventually put the banks at a risk.
 (B) Fiscal discipline was compromised and the banking system was advised to go in for reckless lending.
 (C) The result was that global growth picked up.
 (D) Most economies were doing well and all emerging economies started showing a high growth rate.
 (a) Only B-A (b) Only C-D
 (c) Only A-B (d) Both B-C and A-D
 (e) None of these

20. HOWEVER

- (A) The planning phase of the first manned mission will see ISRO deploy its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV MK III) with a crew of three into a low earth orbit for five to seven days.

Directions (21-23): In the following question a part of the sentence is given in bold, it is then followed by four sentences which try to explain the meaning of the idiom/phrase given in bold. Choose the alternative from the four given below each question which explains the meaning of the phrase correctly without altering the meaning of the sentence given as question. If none of the sentence explains the meaning of the highlighted phrase, choose option (e) i.e., "none of these" as your answer choice.

21. In December 1999, like **a bolt from the blue** came the hijacking of the Indian airliner from Kathmandu to Kandahar which lasted for a week.

- (a) In December 1999, the fatal incident of hijacking of the Indian airliner from Kathmandu to Kandahar happened which lasted for a week
 (b) In December 1999, the formidable episode of hijacking of the Indian airliner from Kathmandu to Kandahar occurred which lasted for a week.
 (c) In December 1999, a frightening event occurred, of hijacking the Indian airliner from Kathmandu to Kandahar which lasted for a week.
 (d) In December 1999, a sudden shocking event occurred of hijacking the Indian airliner from Kathmandu to Kandahar which lasted for a week.
 (e) None of these

22. It's been a long journey for this **dyed-in-the-wool** entrepreneur who holds her mother in high regard for being a pillar of support.

- (a) It's been a long journey for this pretentious entrepreneur who holds her mother in high regard for being a pillar of support.
 (b) It's been a long journey for this conspicuous entrepreneur who holds her mother in high regard for being a pillar of support.
 (c) It's been a long journey for this inveterate entrepreneur who holds her mother in high regard for being a pillar of support.
 (d) It's been a long journey for this revolutionary entrepreneur who holds her mother in high regard for being a pillar of support.
 (e) None of these

23. Some pundits are advising European politicians to **keep a stiff upper lip** and take on Trump's challenge to take more responsibility for their own defense.
- Some pundits are advising European politicians to be aghast and take on Trump's challenge to take more responsibility for their own defense.
 - Some pundits are advising European politicians to be valiant and take on Trump's challenge to take more responsibility for their own defense.
 - Some pundits are advising European politicians to be restrained and take on Trump's challenge to take more responsibility for their own defense.
 - Some pundits are advising European politicians to remain hushed and take on Trump's challenge to take more responsibility for their own defense.
 - None of these

Direction (24-26): In each of the given questions an inference is given in bold which is then followed by three paragraphs. You have to find the paragraph(s) from where it is inferred. Choose the option with the best possible outcome as your choice.

24. Education in India remains a vital challenge

[I] Through the ages, education has been a crucial component for growth and prosperity of nations. It is even more important in today's knowledge economy. Yet, the Indian education system has not been able to fully align itself to this reality. Examination scores that rate students' ability to recall information from memory rather than their comprehension and ability to apply their knowledge continue to be the most important marker of performance.

[II] Education at the school level must focus on students' ability to understand and apply concepts. Improved teacher training, curricula reform and more freedom to educators to experiment are crucial if India is to address the crisis in its education system. Improved learning at the school level will lead to more innovation and research in higher education institutions.

[III] Three Indian higher education institutes are among the top 250 of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings while another five make it to the list of top 500. Predictably it is the IITs and the IISc, Bangalore that have made the cut. At the same time, industry estimates some 94% of engineering school graduates are unemployable.

- only (I)
- Both (II) and (III)
- only (II)
- All (I), (II) and (III)
- none of these

25. The ladder of economic mobility has several broken rungs in countries such as India.

[I] Economic liberals are usually more concerned about equality of opportunity than equality of

outcomes. Inequality is more acceptable in countries where mobility across generations is high, so that where you are born does not completely determine your path in life. A mobile society is far better than one frozen for the benefit of a plutocracy.

[II] Economic mobility is not just a matter of higher public spending on education or labour market reforms. Other factors also matter. For example, underdeveloped capital markets ensure that the poor are credit-constrained. They are also denied insurance that could help them smoothen cash flows. The enterprises of the poor suffer as a result. Along with education, reforms in factor markets—one of the failures of Indian economic policy—deserve more public attention in the context of higher economic mobility.

[III] It is worth pointing out that India continues to have the worst record on income mobility among the six developing countries. A recent article by the Plain Facts team of a newspaper showed that parental education influenced the income of an Indian to a far greater extent than in the case of comparable countries. The result is that occupational mobility is also very low in India. For example, only 3% of the sons of farmers end up with white-collar jobs. Most remain trapped on the farm. On the other hand, 38% of the sons of white-collar workers eventually get similar jobs.

- only (I)
- Both (II) and (III)
- only (II)
- All (I), (II) and (III)
- none of these

26. With international crude prices rising and India's trade deficit widening, the economy is badly impacted.

[I] Brent crude prices have increased from \$70.30 to over \$80 per barrel since the beginning of the new financial year in April. This is mainly due to concerns over supply disruptions after the rise in US tensions with Iran, which contributes 11-12% of OPEC production. As oil prices rise, India's trade deficit — excess of imports over exports — will worsen, which can in turn impact the current account deficit.

[II] Importers will be hit as the cost of getting goods or equipment into India will increase. When the rupee weakens, importers, especially oil companies and other import-intensive companies, have to shell out more rupees to buy an equivalent amount of dollars. In this sense, a weak rupee can act as a kind of import tax. For the oil sector, it is a double whammy, as the rise in crude prices and the decline in rupee value add to retail fuel prices. Margins of oil companies will come under pressure.

[III] The fiscal and current account deficits are interlinked. When fiscal deficit is high, government borrowing rises, leading to higher interest rates. However, when foreign funds start flowing in, the rupee strengthens and exports become more expensive. Crude prices are expected to rise further this year, and imports are expected to grow by at least 14%, says a note from SBI Research. This is bound to enlarge the import bill and push up the trade deficit, which will in turn add to the CAD and push the FY19 figure to 2.5% of GDP.

- (a) Both (I) and (II)
- (b) Both (I) and (III)
- (c) only (I)
- (d) All (I), (II) and (III)
- (e) none of these

27. Which one of the following, if it were to happen, **weakens** the conclusion drawn from the passage given below the most?

According to the law, domestic work is not hazardous and allows the employment of adolescents. Since most adolescent domestic workers are girls, and as there is lack of public scrutiny, they are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitations. Additional hazards include fatigue caused by long working hours, inadequate rest, denial of access to health services, education and recreation. All of these can cause long-term damage to her overall development and future life prospects.

- (a) The new law needs to get more nuanced about what hazardous professions are, by adopting child-sensitive benchmarks.
- (b) Rag-picking and scavenging is another area which is not deemed hazardous as per the law.
- (c) The law protects the children and adolescents (within the age bracket of 15-18 years) by banning their employment in hazardous occupations and seeks to regulate their engagement in the non-hazardous work.
- (d) There are enough instances where the employment of children and adolescents goes unregulated due to existing loopholes in the law.
- (e) None of these

28. Which one of the following statements if true, can be said to best provide **supporting** evidence for the surmise mentioned in the passage?

An engineering degree is valuable, but the sense of empathy that comes from music, arts, literature, and psychology provides a big advantage in design. A history major who has studied the Enlightenment or the rise and fall of the Roman Empire gains an insight into the human elements of technology and the importance of its usability. A psychologist is more likely to know how to motivate people and to

understand what users want than is an engineer who has worked only in the technology trenches. A musician or artist is king in a world in which you can 3D-print anything that you can imagine.

- (a) Tackling today's biggest social and technological challenges requires the ability to think critically.
- (b) 37% have degrees in engineering or computer technology, and two percent in mathematics.
- (c) Indian parents dread the thought of their children becoming musicians or artists
- (d) To create the amazing future that technology is enabling, India needs its musicians and artists working hand in hand with its engineers.
- (e) none of these

Directions (29-30): The following questions are based on the passage given below:

The shortage of faculties in IIMs is rooted in the fact that both existing faculty members and young PhDs who could have been potential recruits are now increasingly preferring high-paying corporate jobs over teaching jobs at the IIMs. As per the ET report, many IIM officials seem to think that the IIM Act that was implemented this January would help solve the problem because it empowers the IIMs to recruit freely and decide on teachers' salaries; they believe the provision will let IIMs offer competitive salaries. But with the government planning to regulate IIM fees, and ironically in the present context, push IIMs to increase intake,

To deal with its faculty crunch, the IIMs must look Westwards—apart from competitive salaries, top US research universities offer many incentives for research that keeps ace teaching talent from looking for greener pastures. Even at the public-school level, teachers are rewarded generously for performance, which in turn, causes lesser attrition.

29. Select the appropriate statement to fill the above blank in the passage.

- (a) where all the 20 IIMs can get top quality faculty.
- (b) the hope that the IIM Act will be empowering could be misplaced.
- (c) to select their faculty as well as curriculum.
- (d) will be subject to overt control by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (e) none of these

30. Which among the following options would most strongly support the author's concern about IIMs?

- (a) Attracting good students to attract high caliber faculties is a chicken-egg problem.
- (b) High-quality faculty, in turn, insists on and attracts high-quality staff and students.
- (c) IIM officials believe the new IIM Act will offer greater freedom to B-schools to attract and retain faculty.
- (d) because of IIMs increasing seats and classes, IIMs may need a Lesson in Managing Faculty Crunch
- (e) none of these

Solutions

1. **(d);** Among the given options, sentence (b) is grammatically (due to the usage of controls) and contextually incorrect. Sentences (a) and (c) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
2. **(c);** Among the given options, sentences (a) and (b) are grammatically and contextually incorrect. In (a) mastered should be used but it is not the only error as the sentence structure is incorrect. In (b) 'made' should be used in place of 'make' Sentence (d) is contextually different and structurally incorrect. It is not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (c) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
3. **(b);** Among the given options, sentence (d) is grammatically and contextually incorrect. Sentences (a) and (c) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (b) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
4. **(d);** Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically and contextually incorrect. Sentences (a) and (b) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Option (c) is incorrect as 'retired' should be used in place of 'retires' Hence only option (d) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
5. **(a);** Among the given options, sentence (c) is grammatically and contextually incorrect. Sentences (b) and (d) are contextually different and structurally incorrect. They are not inferring the same meaning as per the demand of the question. Hence only option (a) forms the correct sentence which follows the sentences given in the question both grammatically and contextually.
6. **(a);** 'that' will not be used before 'if' as this is an interrogative sentence of indirect speech in which that is replaced by 'if/ whether'.
Ex. He asked me if/ whether I was ready.
7. **(d);** 'depends' will be used in place of 'depend' as the subject of the sentence 'success' is singular.
8. **(c);** 'thrown' will be used in place of 'threw' as 'have/ has/ had/ having + V3' is used.
Ex. Having taken breakfast, he went out.
9. **(b);** 'has been working' will be used in place of 'is working' as the sentence is in present perfect continuous tense 'for+ time'.
10. **(a);** 'will talk' will be used in place of 'talked' as two actions, that will happen in future are described here. Ex. He will go to his sister and then he will go to his friend.
11. **(a);** The given phrases in bold contains grammatical error and thus making the sentence incorrect. "is bound to respond, may depend on circumstances" is the correct set of phrases in context of the sentence structure and subsequent grammar usage. respectively. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
12. **(e);** The given phrases in bold do not require any further corrections or replacements to make the sentence grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Therefore, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.
13. **(b);** The paragraph is describing about the issues undertaken by the RBI and formulation of policies to benefit the society in whole. Among the given highlighted words, 'reckless' is incorrectly used as the later part of the sentence has mentioned about the policies to fight inflation. Thus, the most suitable word in place of reckless should be "prudent" as it means acting with or showing care and thought for the future. All the other words are completely adhering to the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
Benchmark means a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared.
Mounting means grow larger or more numerous.
14. **(b);** Among the highlighted words, 'regarding' does not fit into the theme of the paragraph. Also, the sentence mentions about the "volatility" as well as "recent softening" of crude oil prices. Thus, the most appropriate that would justify replacing "regarding" is "notwithstanding" as it means "in spite of". All the other words are grammatically as well as contextually correct. Therefore, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

Volatility means liability to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse.

Vulnerability means the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

Disruptions means disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process.

- 15. (b);** The inaccurate word among the highlighted words is “stabilization”. It is to be noted that the sentence of the paragraph is illustrating about the concerns or issues to be considered by RBI. Therefore, a word similar meaning of “slippage” should be used in place of “stabilization” as “Slippage” means ‘the action or process of slipping or subsiding’. All the other words are grammatically and contextually correct. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.
- Staggered means walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall.
- Revisions means the action of revising.

- 16. (e);** The paragraph is describing about the issues undertaken by the RBI and formulation of policies to benefit the society in whole. All the given words are correct with reference to the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.
- Deficient means not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient.
- Sown means plant (seed) by scattering it on or in the earth.

- 17. (a);** The previous sentence has mentioned about the shortfalls of rain in many parts of the country. Due to shortfalls, the authority has marked to pay attention towards the rain for the remaining season. Thus, to make the next sentence coherent to the paragraph, replace the word “generated” by “flagged” or a word similar in meaning. “flagged” means mark (an item) for attention or treatment in a specified way. However, all the other words are precisely in context of the paragraph. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.
- Imbalances means lack of proportion or relation between corresponding things.
- Hardening means make or become more severe and less sympathetic.

- 18. (e);** All the given combinations of statements successfully form grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentences using the conjunction “As”. “As” as a conjunction is used to indicate that something happens during the time when something else is taking place. Hence, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

Statement B-D: Water levels had fallen in the southern Indian state of Kerala and rain is predicted to ease in the coming days as rescue

operations continue to free thousands of people still marooned by the worst flooding in a century.

Statement C-A: As the severest flood warnings were withdrawn from districts across the state on Sunday, some residents in less affected cities such as Kochi have begun returning to their homes to assess the damage.

Statement A-D: As some residents in less affected cities such as Kochi have begun returning to their homes to assess the damage, rescue operations continue to free thousands of people still marooned by the worst flooding in a century.

Statement B-C: As water levels had fallen in the southern Indian state of Kerala and rain is predicted to ease in the coming days, the severest flood warnings were withdrawn from districts across the state on Sunday.

- 19. (a); Statements (B) and (A)** can be combined using the conjunction “notwithstanding” to form a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence. “Notwithstanding” means although; in spite of the fact that. Therefore the coherent sentence thus formed is **“Fiscal discipline was compromised and the banking system was advised to go in for reckless lending, notwithstanding the fact that it would eventually put the banks at a risk”**. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 20. (e);** None of the given combinations of the statements aptly connect with each other using the connector “however” to form a coherent sentence. ‘However’ is used to introduce a statement that contrasts with or seems to contradict something that has been said previously. Hence, the most suitable answer choice is option (e).

- 21. (d);** The most appropriate option that reflects the meaning of the given sentence is option (d) as the idiom **“a bolt from the blue”** means something important or unusual that happens suddenly or unexpectedly. However, the words “fatal”, “frightening” and “formidable” do not indicate the suddenness of the event. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 22. (c);** The most appropriate option that reflects the meaning of the given sentence is option (c) as the idiom **“dyed-in-the-wool”** means unchanging in a particular belief or opinion; inveterate. However, the words “pretentious”, “conspicuous” and “revolutionary” do not express the similar meaning. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

Pretentious means attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed.

Conspicuous means attracting notice or attention. Inveterate means having a particular habit, activity, or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change.

Revolutionary means involving or causing a complete or dramatic change.

- 23. (b);** The most appropriate option that reflects the meaning of the given sentence is option(b) as the idiom “**keep a stiff upper lip**” means to be courageous or stoic in the face of adversity. However, the words “aghast”, “restrained” and “hushed” do not express the similar meaning. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

Aghast means filled with horror or shock.

Valiant means possessing or showing courage or determination.

Restrained means characterized by reserve or moderation; unemotional or dispassionate.

Hushed means (of a voice or conversation) quiet and serious.

- 24. (a);** Among the given paragraphs, only paragraph (I) provides the conclusion as given in the question. Paragraph (I) has mentioned about the challenges that India is facing in its education system. This can be articulated from the sentence “Examination scores that rate students’ ability to recall information from memory rather than their comprehension and ability to apply their knowledge continue to be the most important marker of performance”. However, paragraph (II) is merely providing the solutions to improve the education system of the country. While paragraph (III) has provided data regarding the position of Indian institutes on global basis. Thus, the given inference can be drawn from the first paragraph only, therefore, option (a) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

- 25. (b);** Read the paragraphs carefully. It is to be noted that the inference means the economic mobility (ability of an individual, family or some other group to improve (or lower) their economic status—usually measured in income) of India has several hurdles while moving towards it. Both the paragraphs (II) and (III) are providing the given inference. Paragraph (II) has mentioned those hurdles in the sentence “Along with education...economic mobility”. This sentence helps to conclude the given inference. Moreover, the inference from paragraph (III) can be drawn from the sentence “...parental education influenced the income of an Indian to a far greater extent than in the case of comparable countries”. However, paragraph (I) is merely providing additional information on economic mobility. Thus, option (b) is the most feasible answer choice.

- 26. (d);** All the given paragraphs successfully infer the given inference. The conclusion can be deduced from the first paragraph of the sentence “As oil prices rise, India’s trade deficit — excess of imports over exports — will worsen, which can in turn impact the current account deficit.”

Moreover, paragraph (II) also mentions about the increase in crude prices which affects economy of the country. This can be understood from the sentence “For the oil sector, it is a double whammy, as the rise in crude prices and the decline in rupee value add to retail fuel prices. Margins of oil companies will come under pressure.” while, paragraph (III) mentions “Crude prices are expected to rise further this year, and imports are expected to grow by at least 14%, says a note from SBI Research. This is bound to enlarge the import bill and push up the trade deficit, which will in turn add to the CAD and push the FY19 figure to 2.5% of GDP.” Since, all three paragraphs infer the given conclusion, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

- 27. (c);** The paragraph has mentioned about the amendments made in the labour laws. However, these amendments are not enough to protect the children and adolescents, since it has a very narrow scope of hazardous work. Only sentence (c) weakens the conclusion drawn from the passage, as it has mentioned about the assured protection provided by the law to the children and adolescents. All the other sentences are mere additional information, supporting the idea of the paragraph. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 28. (d);** The given paragraph has described about the importance of art and humanities along with engineering to build a new innovated era. Statement (d) completely supports the theme of the paragraph, while all the other sentences are irrelevant. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 29. (b);** The paragraph has mentioned about the imbalance in the ratio of faculty and students in IIMs. Moreover, the IIM act has decided to regulate the fees, so as to increase the intake of the students. Thus, the most suitable sentence that will fill the blank is “the hope that the IIM Act will be empowering could be misplaced”, since this amendment in the act will further disturb the proportionality between the teachers and the students. All the other given statements are irrelevant and do not form a coherent paragraph. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

- 30. (c);** The author has mentioned his concern about the shortage of faculty members for the students which will soon rise due to the amendment in IIM bill [But with the government planning to regulate IIM fees, and ironically in the present context, push IIMs to increase intake]. However, option (c) mentions about the retention of the faculties. Therefore, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.