VIJETA CHECKLIST MAINS

CHECKLIST 107

NIMISHA BANSAL

Directions (1-10): Read the following sections of a passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The latest provisional estimates of GDP for the quarter ended September 30, released by the National Statistical Office, project real economic growth at 7.6%, a slight deceleration from the 7.8% logged in the preceding three months. Gross Value Added (GVA) across the eight broad sectors of the economy also _____A_____ a marginal slowing, with second-quarter GVA registering a 7.4% expansion, 40 basis points slower than the April-June period's 7.8%. Robust double-digit expansions in manufacturing, mining, utilities (A)/ and construction offset the loss of momentum across the (B)/ other four sectors and helped insure that the year-on-year (C)/ growth in GVA comfortably exceeded the 7% pace for a second straight quarter. (D) Manufacturing, buoyed by a favourable base effect due to the contraction in the year-earlier period, was the strongest performer by registering growth of 13.9%, a nine-quarter high. And construction witnessed its best showing in five quarters, expanding 13.3%. Of the four other sectors, the crucial ones of agriculture and the two services sectors of trade, hotels, transport and communication, and financial, real estate and professional services saw the pace of growth almost halving from the fiscal first quarter. While year-on-year growth in the agriculture, livestock and fishing sector slowed sharply to an 18-quarter low of 1.2%, the sector also experienced a sequential contraction for the third straight quarter, **underscoring** the precarity plaguing large portions of those earning from farming and allied activities in the rural hinterland.

The slowdown in two key components of the services economy — trade, hotels, transport and communication saw growth **preceding (A)** to 4.3%, from 9.2% in the June quarter, and the expansion in financial and realty services more than halved from the **watch (B)** period to 6% — also merits a closer **slide (C)** as the post-pandemic rebound in services appears to have lost steam. Adding to the need to view the headline growth number with circumspection is the fact that the lynchpin private final consumption expenditure, the single-largest component of demand in the economy, is struggling for traction. Growth in private consumption spending slowed appreciably to 3.1% in the September quarter, from 6% in the preceding three-month period, as rural demand remained affected by the **vagaries** of a below-average monsoon. The NSO data also reveal that the recent economic momentum owes its fillip in large measure to front-loaded government spending, both in terms of consumption demand and asset-creating capital investments. The challenge for policymakers will be to help broaden the growth base so as to ensure that all boats are lifted equally, both to sustain the momentum and reduce inequality.

Question 1:

What implicit challenge does the passage highlight regarding the government's role in economic growth?

A. Overemphasis on private consumption expenditure

B. Ensuring equitable distribution of wealth

C. Striking a balance between economic growth and fighting inequality

D. Mitigating the impact of a below-average monsoon

E. Dependence on robust double-digit growth in manufacturing

Question 2:

What can we say about the overall economic landscape from the passage's discussion on manufacturing and construction?

A. A surge driven by government spending

B. Stable and consistent growth in all sectors

C. A dependence on favourable weather conditions

D. Uneven performance with some sectors losing momentum

E. Long-term sustainability of double-digit growth in manufacturing

Question 3:

Which of the following can be **TRUE** according to the passage?

a. There is a comprehensive assessment of economic performance.

b. In the latest estimates, manufacturing and construction were the key drivers of economic growth.

c. Agriculture sector plays a significant role in the overall economic landscape.

A. Both a and b

B. Both a and c

C. Both b and c

D. All of a, b and c

E. Only a

Question 4:

Which of the following is/are **FALSE** according to the passage?

a. There has been a sustained period of decline in the agriculture, livestock, and fishing sector.

b. The challenges in the agriculture sector have socioeconomic implications.

c. There is a trend of negative growth in the agriculture sector over alternate quarters.

A. Both a and c

B. Both b and c

C. Both a and b

D. Only c

E. None of a, b and c

Question 5:

Identify which part of this sentence from the passage is erroneous.

Robust double-digit expansions in manufacturing, mining, utilities (A)/ and construction offset the loss of momentum across the (B)/ other four sectors and helped insure that the year-on-year (C)/ growth in GVA comfortably exceeded the 7% pace for a second straight quarter. (D)/ No error (E)

A. A

B. B

C. C

D. D

E. E

Question 6:

In the given part of the passage, three words are highlighted which are not in their correct positions. Out of the given options, find out the most suitable arrangement for these words.

The slowdown in two key components of the services economy — trade, hotels, transport and communication saw growth **preceding (A)** to 4.3%, from 9.2% in the June quarter, and the expansion in financial and realty services more than halved from the **watch (B)** period to 6% — also merits a closer **slide (C)** as the post-pandemic rebound in services appears to have lost steam.

A. ACB

B. BAC

C. BCA

D. CAB

E. CBA

Question 7:

Fill in the blank with the most suitable option.

Gross Value Added (GVA) across the eight broad sectors of the economy also _____A_____ a marginal slowing, with second-quarter GVA registering a 7.4% expansion, 40 basis points slower than the April-June period's 7.8%.

A. Revoked

B. Reflected

C. Reassured

D. Attested

E. Redeemed

Question 8:

Which of the following can be the best-suited title for the given passage?

A. Economic Numbers: A Steady Rise

B. Rural Struggles in Economic Growth

C. Government Spending: The Key to Economic Success

D. GDP Figures: A Brief Overview

E. Economic Trends and Challenges: A Close Look at Recent Data

Question 9:

Which of the following words is the closest in meaning to **'underscoring'?**

A. Highlighting

B. Understanding

C. Enacting

D. Executing

E. Fostering

Question 10:

Which of the following words is the most suitable antonym of the word **'vagaries'?**

A. Affluence

B. Intent

C. Likelihood

D. Predictability

E. Surety

ANSWER

1.Ans: C

Explanation:

Refer to: The challenge for policymakers will be to help broaden the growth base so as to ensure that all boats are lifted equally, both to sustain the momentum and reduce inequality.

2. Ans: A

Explanation:

Refer to: The NSO data also reveal that the recent economic momentum owes its fillip in large measure to front-loaded government spending, both in terms of consumption demand and asset-creating capital investments.

3. Ans: D

Explanation:

Sentence a: true

Refer to: Gross Value Added (GVA) across **the eight broad sectors of the economy (comprehensive growth)** also reflected a marginal slowing, with second-quarter GVA registering a 7.4% expansion, 40 basis points slower than the April-June period's 7.8%.

Sentence b: true

Refer to: Manufacturing, buoyed by a favourable base effect due to the contraction in the year-earlier period, **was the strongest performer** by registering growth of 13.9%, a nine-quarter high. And **construction witnessed its best showing** in five quarters, expanding 13.3%.

Sentence c: true

Refer to: Of the four other sectors, **the crucial ones** of agriculture and the two services sectors of trade, hotels, transport and communication, and financial, real estate and professional services saw the pace of growth almost halving from the fiscal first quarter.

4. Ans: D

Explanation:

Refer to: While year-on-year growth in the agriculture, livestock and fishing sector slowed sharply to an 18-quarter low of 1.2%, **the sector also experienced a sequential contraction for the third straight**

quarter (a and c), underscoring the precarity **plaguing large portions of those earning from farming and allied activities in the rural hinterland (b)**.

c: the decline has been there for consecutive quarters and not alternate ones.

5. Ans: C

Explanation: The C part has an error.

Use of the word 'ensure' which means ' to make sure or guarantee' should be done instead of 'insure' which on the other hand means 'the act of providing insurance coverage or protection against financial loss.'

6. Ans: D

Explanation:

The correct order here is CAB.

The slowdown in two key components of the services economy — trade, hotels, transport and communication saw growth **slide** to 4.3%, from 9.2% in the June quarter, and the expansion in financial and realty services more than halved from the **preceding** period to 6% — also merits a closer **watch** as the post-pandemic rebound in services appears to have lost steam.

7. Ans: B

Explanation: Option B will fit to convey the required meaning.

Revoked: Officially cancelled.

Reflected: Indicated or shown.

Reassured: Provided comfort or confidence.

Attested: Confirmed or verified formally.

Redeemed: Restored or saved from a negative situation.

8. Ans: E

Explanation: Option E is the most suitable title here. All the other options cover just one aspect of the passage, but option E provides the central idea.

9. Ans: A

Explanation:

Underscoring means emphasising or highlighting the importance of something.

Highlighting: Emphasising or making something stand out.

Understanding: Grasping the meaning or nature of something.

Enacting: Putting into action or making something happen.

Executing: Carrying out or performing a task or plan.

Fostering: Promoting growth, development, or encouragement.

Therefore Option A will be the synonym of the given word.

10. Ans: D

Explanation:

Vagaries means unexpected or unpredictable changes or fluctuations.

Affluence: Wealth or abundance of resources.

Intent: Purpose or plan.

Likelihood: Probability or chance of something happening.

Predictability: Consistency and expected outcome.

Surety: Certainty or assurance.

Therefore, Option D will be the antonym of the given word.

★ TELEGRAM

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