

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE

Tim Barnard married when he was 25, fresh out of graduate school. His wife was a 21-year-old college student. "At that age," recalled Barnard, now 36, "I didn't comprehend what it took to stay in a long-lasting relationship. It seemed that if you're in a serious relationship and you're committed to another person, the next logical step is to get married." Four years later, they were divorced. He got the credit-card debt and she got the washer and dryer.

Barnard's marriage was typical of the many brief, early marriages that end in divorce by age 30, with no children and little more joint property than wedding gifts and a stereo. While couples in these marriages do not wed with the intention of divorcing, their temporary stay in marriage is much like the starter home of a generation ago, shed as the family outgrew it.

"The idea of a starter marriage is a fascinating one," said Dr. Constance Ahrons, professor of sociology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and associate director of its marriage and family therapy doctoral program. "These marriages are very common, but they are not given much credibility."

Marriage and family experts-psychologists, sociologists, lawyers and clergy-are beginning to look at these brief young unions, seeing in their implications a barometer of society's attitudes about marriage and divorce.

Some say starter marriages signal the need for more premarital counseling. Others have begun to rethink the whole notion of early, pre-children marriages, suggesting that it may be time to lessen the legal and social burdens of divorce for couples at this stage.

No statistics are kept on such marriages, but according to the Census Bureau, in 1992 there were 1.3 million divorces among people age 25 to 29, up from 253,000 in 1962-a five-fold increase-while the population for that age group did not even double in that time period.

Psychotherapists say brief, early marriages have been around as long as divorce has, although they often are overlooked in studies. "There may be no children, no property, and the marriage doesn't make headlines," said Ahrons, who wrote "The Good Divorce." "But people still enter marriage with expectations, with dreams, with fantasies or the house we're going to buy, the children we're going to have." ...

There is debate about how much people should pay in brief marriages without children. Margaret Mead recommended in the 1960s, that such unions be codified as "trial marriages." Believing that it is the presence of children that should render a marriage lifelong, Mead described an alternative relationship that would last for a finite period, whereupon the couple would decide whether to have children and enter what she viewed as the more permanent stage of matrimony, or not.

Mead's views on trial marriages came before the proliferation of cohabitation. In 1990, 2.9 million unmarried couples were living together, up 80 percent from 1980 and up 454 percent from 1970, according to the Census Bureau. Some of those couples may be replacing couples who could find themselves in a starter marriage, but cohabitation has not reduced the divorce rate.

Society has a vested interest in making the breakup of a marriage difficult, said Michael Albano, President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Religious beliefs, too, tend to hold marriage as a linchpin of community, and many churches and synagogues offer marital counseling. In the Roman Catholic Church, for instance, couples undergo pre-wedding counseling on the specifics of married life, such as raising children and handling finances, said the Rev. Francis Muller, a judge with the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York.

All marriages go through stages of evaluation, typically in the first year or two after marriage and again after seven years or

so, said Dr. Anna Beth Benningfield, president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, a professional organization of therapists. At these junctures, the challenges of one's 20s- living independently for the first time, beginning a career-can strain a marriage to the breaking point.

Those who have been through young marriages point to the divorce-not the wedding- as the real rite of passage of their 20s. "Marriage is very easy; divorce is very hard," said Pachet.

Albano, the lawyer, speaks to high school classes about the need to communicate in a marriage, about changing gender roles of spouses and parents, and about weathering the inevitable bad times.

"They really don't know that there are going to be days when he's obnoxious or she's so tired she can't deal with him, or the fact that she may make more money than he does" he said. "The Church tells them marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning."

1. Which of the following would best align with the contents of the passage ?

- A. Starter marriages can bring in stability in the lives of married people.
- B. Starter marriages do not require pre-marital counselling.
- C. Starter marriages cause marriages to break, creating a split in the families.
- D. Starter marriages, though common, are not given much credibility.

2. All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :

- A. trial marriages provide the opportunity for couples to understand each other's past life and relationships.
- B. it is the presence of children that sustains a marriage lifelong.
- C. people enter marriage with expectations, dreams, fantasies regarding the house to be acquired, the children to be reared and things of the like.
- D. legal and social burdens of divorce need to be lessened for couples at the early, pre-children stage of marriage.

3. Cohabitation, as per the passage, means :

- A. the rehabilitation of estranged couples.
- B. the staying together of unmarried couples.
- C. the patch up between couples opting for divorce, as a compromising arrangement.
- D. All except (B).

4. Which of the following, as per the passage, is true of religious beliefs ?

- A. they do not attach significance to the relationship between a man and a woman.
- B. They emphasize on the relationship between man and God.
- C. They give importance to marriage as the support on which rests the community.
- D. None of the above.

5. The passage relates to the field of :

- A. human biology
- B. anthropology
- C. genealogy
- D. sociology

6. A suitable title for the passage could be :

- A. Starter Marriages - A Step Towards Marital Stability.
- B. Cohabitation-Not A Solution For Curbing Divorce Rate.
- C. Divorce- A Burgeoning Social Problem.
- D. Trial Marriages End Disastrously.

7. The author has handled the passage in a manner which is :

- A. humorous
- B. clarifying
- C. ambiguous
- D. debatable

8. As per the passage, marriages, which are brief and a short lived, reflect :

- A. the immoral and irreligious lifestyle of today's generation.
- B. the lack of values in today's men and women.
- C. society's attitudes about marriage and divorce.
- D. the mismatch between expectations and fulfilments.

9. Which of the following can be concluded from the passage ?

- A. Marriages break up because of unrealistic expectations of the persons involved.
- B. The permanent state of matrimony is when children enter the lives of the married couple.
- C. Cohabitation has proved to be effective in curbing the divorce rate.
- D. To marry is easy, to divorce is easier.

10. 'Marriage is easy, but divorce is difficult'. The statement, according to the passage is :

- A. upheld
- B. negated
- C. not considered relevant
- D. None of the above.

ANSWER KEY

1.(D) 2.(A) 3.(B) 4.(C) 5.(D) 6.(C) 7.(B) 8.(C) 9.(B) 10.(A)

SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

11. It's very important for CEOs, board members, and other nonfinancial executives to internalize the principles of value creation because doing it allows them to make independent, courageous, and even unpopular business decisions.

- A. because doing it allows them to make independent, courageous, and even unpopular business decisions
- B. because doing that allows them to make independent, courageous, but even unpopular business decisions
- C. because doing so allows them to make independent, courageous, and even unpopular business decisions
- D. because doing so allow him to make independent, courageous, and even unpopular business decisions
- E. because doing these allows them to make independent, courageous, as well as unpopular business decisions

Answer – C

12. Empirical analysis of specific acquisition strategies offer limited insight, largely because of the wide variety of types and sizes of acquisitions and due to the lack of an objective way to classify them by strategy.

- A. offer limited insight, largely because of the wide variety of types and sizes of acquisitions and due to the lack of an objective way to classify them by
- B. offer limited insight, largely due to the wide variety of types and sizes of acquisitions and also due to the lack of an objective way to classify these acquisitions by
- C. offer limited insight, largely because of the wide variety of types and sizes of acquisitions and the lack of an objective way to classify these acquisitions by
- D. offers limited insight, largely because of the wide variety of types and sizes of acquisitions and the lack of an objective way to classify these acquisitions by
- E. offers limited insight, largely because of the wide variety and types or sizes of acquisitions and the lack of an objective way to classify them by

Answer – D

13. Companies, investors, and governments must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if they are to defend against future economic crises.

- A. Companies, investors, and governments must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if they are to defend against future economic crises.
- B. Companies, investors, along with governments must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if it is to defend against future economic crises.
- C. Companies, as well as investors and governments, must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if they are to defend from future economic crises.
- D. Companies, investors, and governments must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if these are to defend from future economic crises.
- E. Companies, investors, and governments must relearn the guiding principles of value creation if future economic crises are to be defended.

Answer – A

14. A Wall Street Journal report said that the ship, that departed from Long Beach on a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, is about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire ignited in the engine room, cutting off power, telephone service and air conditioning

- A. that departed from Long Beach on a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, is about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire ignited in the engine room, cutting off power, telephone service and air conditioning
- B. which departed from Long Beach for a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, was about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire ignited in the engine room and cut off power, telephone service and air conditioning as well
- C. which departed from Long Beach on a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, were about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire was ignited in the engine room that cut off power, telephone service and air conditioning
- D. which departed from Long Beach on a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, was about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire ignited in the engine room, cutting off power, telephone service and air conditioning
- E. that has departed from Long Beach on a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera, was about 200 miles south of San Diego when a fire ignited in the engine room, cutting off power, telephone service as well as air conditioning

Answer – D

15. Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.

- A. has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country
- B. killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- C. has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, which has lead to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- D. had killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- E. has been killing 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaring of an emergency in the country.

Answer – A

16. The three-pointed-star on the Mercedes bonnet can now be in your garage for a much lesser price than you ever imagined.

- A. lesser price than you ever imagined
- B. lower price than you ever imagined
- C. lesser price than you had ever imagined
- D. lower price than one would have ever imagined
- E. lesser price than you could ever have imagined

Answer – B

17. A delegation of 60 farmers called on the chief minister so as to plead for revival of the benefit scheme together with the revised compensation package offered by the government and the chief minister has very graciously conceded their request

- A. chief minister so as to plead for revival of the benefit scheme together with the revised compensation package offered by the government and
- B. chief minister and pleaded for revival of the benefit scheme together with the revised compensation package offered by the government but
- C. chief minister and were pleading towards revival of the benefit scheme as well as the revised compensation package offered by the government and
- D. chief minister and pleaded for revival of the benefit scheme together with the revised compensation package offered by the government and
- E. chief minister to plead for revival of the benefit scheme together with the revised compensation package offered by the government but

Answer – D

18. The telecom minister had been indicted by the Supreme court in the 2G spectrum scam, which resulted in a loss of about \$1.7 trillion to the exchequer.

- A. had been indicted by the Supreme court in the 2G spectrum scam, which resulted
- B. has been indicted in the 2G spectrum scam by the Supreme court, which resulted
- C. has been indicted by the Supreme court in the 2G spectrum scam, which resulted
- D. is indicted by the Supreme court in the 2G spectrum scam that resulted
- E. has been indicted by the Supreme court in the 2G spectrum scam, resulting

Answer – C

FILL IN THE BLANK

19. Where did you for your holiday in the end?

- (a) went (b) gone (c) go (d) going

ANSWER-C

20. I must admit you tried but I'm afraid the answer is still no.

- (a) did (b) will (c) do (d) have

ANSWER-D

21. Sometimes I wonder if I ever succeed.

- (a) do (b) shall (c) am (d) were

ANSWER-B

22. How many times you been there?

- (a) has (b) will (c) have (d) did

ANSWER-C

23. She's working there since she left school.

(a) had (b) done (c) have (d) been

ANSWER-D

24. It's time we

(a) go (b) went (c) are going (d) going

ANSWER-B

25. I honestly couldn't follow a word you

(a) are saying (b) will say (c) were saying (d) did say

ANSWER-C

26. He asked me what I doing there.

(a) am (b) did (c) will be (d) was

ANSWER-D

SPOT THE ERROR

27. The interviewer asked me (a) / if I knew that (b) / Kalidas was the greater (c) / than any other poet. (d) / No error (e)

Correct Option : C.

28. The reason we have not been able to pay income tax (a) / is due to fact (b) / that we did not receive pay on time. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

29. Even now when I see the spot (a) / I am reminded of an unique incident (b) / that took place several weeks ago. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

30. The road (a) / to famous temple (b) / passes through a forest (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option b.

31. Now that she is living in her own house, (a) / she cleans the windows, (b) / twice a week in the summer and once a week in the winter. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : c.

32. With little imagination and enterprise, (a) / the tournament could have been transformed (b) / into a major attraction (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : a.

33. These display (a) / the (b) remarkable variety. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : b.

34. As soon as the principal entered, (a) / everyone fell (b) / in a silence. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : C.

CRITICAL REASONING

35. Statement: Persistent weakness in global demand and the lower value of oil products led India's merchandise exports to fall for the sixth straight month in May, while a decline in gold imports helped the trade deficit narrow to a three-month low.

Which of the following inference drawn is probably false according to the above statement?

- (a) There will be softening of oil products in the global market
- (b) Rupee will appreciate against the dollar
- (c) There will be an increase in the collection of indirect taxes in the month of April and May
- (d) There will be an increase in the domestic demand of gold and jewellery.
- (e) Only (b) and (d)

36. Statement: Spitting on streets could cost people dear as the Maharashtra state cabinet approved an innovative anti-spitting law that combines monetary punishment with mandatory community service.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above statement (An inference is something that is not directly stated but can be inferred from the given information).

- (a) The law is likely to act as a precursor to banning chewing tobacco in public
- (b) Anti-spitting law would bring down transmission of all airborne diseases
- (c) People will be restrained from spitting out tobacco in public places

- (d) Maharashtra's roads will look clean and tidy
- (e) Only (b) and (c)

37. Statement: In a move to strengthen public transport in the Capital, ahead of the implementation of the odd-even vehicle scheme, Delhi government has decided to issue permits to 10,000 new auto rickshaws by the end of December.

Which of the following statements would strengthen the decision taken by the Delhi government?

- (a) New auto rickshaws will cause congestion on the road.
- (b) Pollution in the city will not be controlled.
- (c) Most of the people will use public transport in the city.
- (d) Delhi has the lowest pollution from auto rickshaws among metros.
- (e) People do not use public transport for lack of last-mile connectivity.

38. Statement: In its first bi-monthly policy review, RBI has decided to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points and take measures to ease the liquidity constraints in the banking system.

Which of the following negates the above steps taken by the RBI?

- (a) Loans and EMI will become cheaper for retail loans.
- (b) Banks will pay higher interest rate of FD and RD.
- (c) Banks will have to deposit more money with the RBI.
- (d) Rupee will strengthen against other currencies.
- (e) None of the above

39. Statement: To keep railway premises and trains free from dirt and filth, Railways has introduced clean train scheme (CTS) at major stations of East Central Railway (ECR). Which of the following will be a fallout of the above statement?

- (a) Travellers will find neat and clean coaches while travelling.
- (b) Only a few stations under ECR will be neat and clean.
- (c) People can find clean and tidy platforms falling under the jurisdiction of ECR.
- (d) Only Premium trains and Rajdhani will be benefited from this scheme.
- (e) Only (b) and (d)

40. Statement: The Central Government of Country X has decided to prune the number of Centrally sponsored schemes to 30 from 50, a move that will allow it to allocate bigger sums to 'core of the core' schemes and deflect criticism that it has neglected some critical areas.

Which of the following statements would strengthen the decision taken by Country X?

- (a) The government of Country X is not able to properly manage the funds which have been allocated to its states.
- (b) The government of Country X found that lots of projects are not benefiting the poor people.
- (c) The main focus of the government of Country X should be on social protection and social inclusion which require more funds.
- (d) The main focus of the government of Country X is on eradicating poverty and strengthening the education system in the country.
- (e) The decision will help the states of Country X to spend more on social security programmes.

ANSWERS

- 35. Answer: (d)
- 36. Answer: (c)
- 37. Answer: (e)
- 38. Ans.(b)
- 39. Ans.(e)
- 40. Ans.(c)