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GENERAL ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Directions (1 - 10): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Sunil and Puran lived in the same village. While Puran owned the largest shop in the village, Sunil was a poor farmer. Both had large families, with many sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. One day, Sunil, tired of not being able to make ends meet, decided to leave the village and move to the city where they were sure to make enough to feed everyone. They said their goodbyes, packed their few belongings and set off. When night fell, they stopped under a large tree. There was a stream running nearby, where they could refresh themselves. Sunil told his sons to clear the area below the tree. He told his wife to fetch water. He instructed his daughters-in-law to make up the fire and started cutting wood from the tree himself. Now, in that branches of the tree sat a thief. He watched as Sunil's family worked together. He also noticed they had nothing to cook. Sunil's wife too thought the same, for she said to her husband, "Everything is ready. But what shall we eat ?" Sunil raised his hands to heaven and said, "Don't worry. He is watching all this from above. He will help us."

The thief was worried. He had seen that the family was large and worked well together. Surely they did not know he was hiding in the branches. He decided to make a quick **getaway**. He climbed down swiftly when they were not looking and ran for his life. But, he left behind his bundle of stolen jewels and money, which dropped down into Sunil's lap. He opened it and jumped with joy when he saw the contents. The family promptly gathered its belongings and returned to the village. There was great excitement when they told everyone how they got rich.

Puran thought this was a nice quick way to earn some money ! He commanded his family to pack some clothes and they set off as if on a journey. They stopped under the same tree and Puran started commanding everyone as Sunil had done. But no one in his family was willing to obey orders. They were used to having servants wait on them - so the one who went to the river to fetch water had a nice bath. The one who went to gather wood for the fire went off to sleep beneath the tree. And Puran only ordered everyone about, not conversation that they had rehearsed carefully. Puran's wife said, "Everything is ready. But what shall we eat ?" Puran raised his hands upwards and said, "Don't worry. He is watching all this from above. He will help us".

At this, the thief jumped down from the tree, knife in hand. Seeing him, everyone started running helter skelter to save themselves. The thief stole everything. Puran and his family had to return to the village empty handed, having lost all the jewellery and gold they had taken with them.

1. Which of the following cannot be said about Sunil's family ?

- (A) They respected and obeyed Sunil.
- (B) They were so poor that they sometimes had to starve.
- (C) They had no friends in the village when they were poor.
- (1) None
- (2) Only (C)
- (3) Only (B) and (C)
- (4) Only (B)
- (5) All (A), (B) and (C)

Ans. (2)

2. Why did Sunil and his family decide to camp under the thief's tree ?

- (1) Being a large family they knew they could capture the thief.
- (2) It was a convenient spot to camp for the night.
- (3) It was the only tree large enough to shelter the whole family.
- (4) There was a stream nearby and wood to build a house.
- (5) Exhausted after the day's travel they couldn't walk any more.

Ans. (2)

3. Why did the thief leave the valuables he had stolen behind ?

- (1) Seeing Sunil's faith in God the thief was filled with remorse.
- (2) Feeling sorry for Sunil's family he decided to donate the valuables to them.
- (3) He was afraid that God would punish him for stealing.
- (4) In his hurry to run away he forgot to take the valuables along.
- (5) He was confident that they were so well hidden that they would not be found.

Ans. (4)

4. Which of the following best describes Puran ?

- (1) He was a rich businessman.
- (2) He bullied his wife so she obeyed him.
- (3) He paid his servants well to look after his family's needs.
- (4) He was greedy and had cheated Sunil.
- (5) He was brave and decided to trick the thief.

Ans. (4)

5. Why did Sunil's family return to the village?

- (1) To show off their new found wealth.
- (2) To buy back their land and start a business.
- (3) They had no need to shift to the city.
- (4) To share their wealth with the other villagers.
- (5) They wanted to sing God's praises to all the villagers.

Ans. (3)

6. What made Sunil utter the phrase, "**He is watching all this from above**"?

- (1) He had spotted the thief and wanted to frighten him off.
- (2) He was telling his wife to trust God to look after them.
- (3) It was a warning to his family members to stick together.
- (4) He was begging the thief for help to feed his family.
- (5) None of these

Ans. (2)

7. Which of the following is TRUE in the context of the passage ?

- (1) Puran planned to seek his fortune in the city as Sunil had.
- (2) Sunil's family preferred to live in the city.
- (3) Puran had no intention of moving to the city.
- (4) Puran lost his entire life savings to the thief.
- (5) The thief only robbed those whom he did not like.

Ans. (3)

8. Why did the thief return to the tree ?

- (1) To plot how to get his money Back
- (2) He thought no one would look for him there.
- (3) To keep a watch on Puran's family.
- (4) Not mentioned in the passage
- (5) None of these

Ans. (4)

9. Why was the thief not afraid of Puran's family ?

- (1) They had not brought their servants along to protect them.
- (2) Seeing their wealth he suspected them of stealing his loot.
- (3) He had weapons to defend himself.
- (4) Puran's family was not as large as Sunil's
- (5) Puran's family was not united and obedient.

Ans. (5)

10. How did the villagers react to Sunil's newfound wealth ?

- (1) They tried hard to coax him to reveal the secret of his wealth
- (2) They followed his example and became more devout.
- (3) They pretended to be happy for him but were secretly jealous.
- (4) They each plotted to visit the tree and get rich quickly.
- (5) There was great excitement.

Ans. (5)

Directions (11 – 13) : Choose the word or group of words which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

11. PLEASANTLY

- (1) extremely
- (2) delightfully
- (3) charming
- (4) friendly
- (5) coolly

Ans. (2)

12. WAILING

- (1) Crying
- (2) complaining
- (3) shouting
- (4) Tears
- (5) Grumbling

Ans. (1)

13. RIGHT

- (1) Suitable
- (2) Legally
- (3) Accurately
- (4) Straight
- (5) Immediately

Ans. (4)

Directions (14 – 18) : Which of the phrases (1), (2), (3) and (4) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in, **bold** in the sentence to make it grammatically correct ? If the sentence is correct as it is given and no correction is required, mark (5) as the answer.

14. As Anuj was familiar with the road to Neeraj's house, he **lead the way**.

- (1) led the way
- (2) led away
- (3) leading ways
- (4) lead ways
- (5) No correction required

Ans. (1)

15. Although he was new to the field of painting, Sharad **give it a go**.

- (1) gave goes
- (2) gives his go
- (3) gave it a go
- (4) giving it goes
- (5) No correction required

Ans. (3)

16. The performance of the band on New Year's Eve was **out of worlds**.

- (1) out of the worldly
- (2) outing of worlds
- (3) out from the world
- (4) out of the world
- (5) No correction required

Ans. (4)

17. Parents are **changing with the times** and are friendlier and more open to their children's views.

- (1) changed timings
- (2) changed to the time
- (3) changing times
- (4) change with time
- (5) No correction required

Ans. (5)**18.** Many people do not like to **switch at** one brand to another.

(1) switched in (2) switches at (3) switch from (4) switching on

(5) No correction required

Directions (19 – 25): Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in the passage.**19. BEGETS**

(1) produces (2) loses (3) expects (4) avoids

(5) calls

Ans. (1)**20. STERN**

(1) hard (2) tall (3) easy (4) tight

(5) severe

Ans. (5)**21. GATHERED**

(1) parted (2) assembled (3) dispersed (4) pooled

(5) collated

Ans. (2)**22. MAKE**

(1) earn (2) estimate (3) prepare (4) build

(5) settle

Ans. (1)**23. LOST**

(1) defeated (2) failed (3) forfeited (4) wasted

(5) destroyed

Ans. (3)**24. GETAWAY**

(1) holiday (2) freedom (3) fantasy (4) escape

(5) relaxation

Ans. (4)**25. UNKEMPT**

(1) untidy (2) tiny (3) torn (4) proper

(5) worried

Ans. (1)

Directions (26 – 35): 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. For as long as I can remember I have thought of myself as a teacher and I still do even today. But in 1965 I decided to (26) my hand at business. So I (27) my father to allow me to (28) up a printing and packaging plant (29) the project proposal and applied for a (30). Once it was approved I went (31) the challenges of employing the right (32). My project was successful and I (33) an attractive profit. Becoming a rich businessman (34) never my dream. It was just a (35) of proving to myself and my family that I could be a success in business. This experience also gave me a lot of self confidence.

26. (1) use (2) attempt (3) try (4) give

(5) show

Ans. (3)

27. (1) prevailed (2) permitted (3) appealed (4) offered

(5) persuaded

Ans. (5)

28. (1) set

(2) built

(3) raise

(4) stand

(5) begin

Ans. (1)

29. (1) draft

(2) extended

(3) prepared

(4) thought

(5) formulate

Ans. (3)

30. (1) relief

(2) loan

(3) post

(4) leave

(5) job

Ans. (2)

31. (1) under

(2) through

(3) ahead

(4) for

(5) away

Ans. (1)

33. (1) in ade

(2) gain

(3) benefited

(4) obtain

(5) reap

Ans. (1)

34. (1) stayed

(2) fulfilled

(3) pursued

(4) was

Ans. (4)

35. (1) direction

(2) state

(3) certificate

(4) way

(5) proof

Ans. (4)

Directions (36 – 40) : In each question below, a sentence with four words printed in bold type is given. These are numbered as (1), (2), (3) and (4). One of these four words printed in bold may be either wrongly spelt or inappropriate in the context of the sentence. Find out the word which is wrongly spelt or inappropriate, if any. The number of that word is your answer. If all the words printed in bold are correctly spelt and also appropriate in the context of the sentence, mark (5) i.e. 'All correct' as your answer.

36. Discussion (1) / is an exchange of knowledge (2) / whereas argument (3) / is a depiction (4) / of ignorance. All correct (5).

Ans. (3)

37. He was arrested (1) / for the crime (2) / and was charged (3) / with attempt (4) / to murder. All correct (5)

Ans. (5)

38. Commit (1) / yourself to lifelong learning (2) / as the most valuable (3) / asset (4) / you will have is your mind. All correct (5)

Ans. (4)

39. Believe (1) / that life is worth (2) / living and your belief will create (3) / the fact. (4) / All correct (5)

Ans. (1)

40. The best educated (1) / human being (2) / is the one who understands (3) / most about the life in which (4) / he is placed. All correct (5).

Ans. (2)