

VA Practice Session 3-19<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

#POST\_1

#FIB

But \_\_\_\_\_ are now regularly written to describe well-established practices, organisations and institutions, not all of which seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ away.

- [1] reports, withering
- [2] stories, trading
- [3] books, dying
- [4] obituaries, fading

#POST\_2

#FIB

Since her face was free of \_\_\_\_\_ there was no way to \_\_\_\_\_ if she appreciated what had happened.

- [1] make-up, realise
- [2] expression, ascertain
- [3] emotion, diagnose
- [4] scars, understand

#POST\_3

#PJ\_TITA

- A. When they move to another flower to feed, some of the pollen can rub off onto this new plant's stigma.
- B. They are not trying to pollinate the plant.
- C. Usually they are at the plant to get food, the sticky pollen or sweet nectar made at the base of the petals.
- D. When animals such as bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and hummingbirds pollinate plants, it's accidental.
- E. When feeding, the animals accidentally rub against the stamens and get pollen stuck all over themselves.

#POST\_4

#PJ\_TITA

- A. But it's not always easy to find one with genuine value that you connect with.
- B. There are literally thousands of them written on the same topic every year.
- C. So deciphering the 'good' from the 'great' can prove to be quite a challenge.
- D. That's because, these days, books and online articles are a dime a dozen.
- E. It's fairly easy to find a well-written book or an online article.

#POST\_5

## #RC

Data suggest Indians are scaling corporate heights. In a study of S&P 500 companies, Egon Zehnder found more Indian CEOs than any other nationality except American. Indians lead seven companies; Canadians, four. Among the C-suite executives in the 2009 FORTUNE 500 were two mainland Chinese, two North American Chinese and 13 Indians, according to a study by two professors from Wharton and China Europe International Business School.

For multinationals, it makes good sense to have leaders experienced in working with expanding Asian markets. And India is already the location of many of their operations. "If you look at companies like Pepsi or Hewlett-Packard or IBM, a huge chunk of their global workforce is sitting out in India," says Anshuman Das, a co-founder of CareerNet, a Bangalore executive-search company. "India and China are also the countries of future profits for the multinationals, so they may want their global leaders to come out of them." Competitive and complex, India has evolved from a poorly run, centrally controlled economy into the perfect Petri dish in which to grow a 21st century CEO. "The Indians are the friendly and familiar faces of Asia," says Ader. "They think in English, they're used to multinationals in their country, they're very adaptive, and they're supremely confident." The subcontinent has been global for centuries, having endured, and absorbed, waves of foreign colonizers, from the Mughals to the British. Practiced traders and migrants, Indians have impressive transnational networks. "The earth is full of Indians," wrote Salman Rushdie. "We get everywhere." Unlike, say, a Swede or a German, an Indian executive is raised in a multiethnic, multifait, multilingual society, one nearly as diverse as the modern global marketplace. Unlike Americans, they're well versed in negotiating India's byzantine bureaucracy, a key skill to have in emerging markets. And unlike the Chinese, they can handle the messiness of a litigious democracy. "In China, you want something done, you talk to a bureaucrat and a politician — it gets done," observes Ajay.

"In India, if you talk to a bureaucrat or a politician, there are going to be 600 other people with their own points of view." There's an old saying about Asian business cultures: "The Chinese roll out the red carpet; Indians roll out the red tape."

Maybe that's why Indian managers are good at managing it. They have cut their teeth in a country ranked 134th by the World Bank for ease of doing business. To be fair, it's also the reason some of them left home.

They're practiced in the exasperating culture of local, state and national permits. "To build a factory in China, a CEO will have to get two or three different permissions from various departments," observes Signe Spencer, a co-author of *The Indian CEO*, a 2007 study from the HayGroup consultancy. "An Indian CEO may have to get 80 different permissions from 80 different places." No wonder Indian executives spend much of their time networking and lobbying — tasks Western CEOs leave to their corporate public-affairs departments.

1. It can be inferred that the style of the passage is

(a) Factual (b) Didactic (c) Analytical (d) Argumentative

2. Which of the following is the best analogy for the Indian executive's advantage over his Chinese counterpart?

(a) Structured: Constrained (b) Constrained: Structured

(c) Control: Autonomy (d) Restrictions: Autonomy

3. It can be inferred that the author will move on to discuss

(a) further points of comparison between the Indian and the Chinese executive.

(b) further specific points on how Indian executives are able to manage bureaucratic hurdles.

(c) further points that substantiate why the Indian executive will always scale corporate

heights.

(d) further points on the how the Indian executive scores over executives from countries other than China.

[#POST\\_6](#)

[#RC\\_2](#)

China's use of water is another rising source of tension. India's biggest rivers flow into the country from China. China is currently at work on constructing the world's largest hydroelectric dam on the Brahmaputra River, which is vital for Indian agriculture. India has agreed to treaties on water usage with its other neighbors, but China refuses to participate. This refusal to compromise underscores China's unreliability as a neighbor, says Srikanth Kondapalli, head of the Centre for East Asian Studies at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. "While China argues for multilateralism in the international arena, it reverses that position when it comes to water," he says. To try to overcome these political stalemates, both sides are looking to use their surging economies to rebuild relations and raise their political profiles, as they have become invaluable partners for Western markets still mired in a global downturn. "There is a desire with China to get along, and I know there is such a desire in India," says Maharaja Krishna Rasgotra, former Indian Foreign Secretary. Commerce will help soften political attitudes." Trade between India and China is expected to reach \$60 billion this year up from \$270 million 20 years ago, making China India's largest trading partner. But there too, there are issues to resolve. India's trade deficit with China is expected to top \$20 billion this year. It's an asymmetry that both countries have pledged to correct, but India remains suspicious that, while China is happy to import its raw material while India buys China's refined goods, Chinese policy is standing in the way of Indian companies' exporting their own finished products. "They've turned India into an Africa-style raw material appendage," says Chellaney.

1. "This refusal to compromise underscores China's unreliability as a neighbor." Paraphrased the following sentence would mean
  - (a) China's refusal to compromise highlights the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
  - (b) China's refusal to compromise weakens the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
  - (c) China's refusal to compromise undermines the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
  - (d) China's refusal to compromise conforms to the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
2. According to the author, which of the following is not a trade issue that needs to be resolved between India and China?
  - (a) India's trade deficit with China is expected to top \$20 billion this year.
  - (b) China is content with exporting finished goods to India but not with importing them from India.
  - (c) China is willing to receive imports in the form of raw material from India but not in the form of

finished goods.

(d) China's refusal to enter a treaty on water usage with India.

#### #POST\_7

I often think it's comical  
How nature always does contrive  
That every boy and every gal  
That's born into the world alive  
Is either a little liberal,  
Or else a little conservative!

Which of the following can be conclusively inferred from the above prose?

- (a) Everyone alive is bound to take sides about some central political issues.
- (b) Liberal or conservative tendencies are inherent in human beings.
- (c) Everything tends to reduce to two.
- (d) Liberal and conservative tendencies can co-exist in every human being.

#### #POST\_8

##### #FIB

The sudden shift from ..... to ..... in the author's novel can startle readers, especially when he abruptly juxtaposes a scene of holy rituals with one of profane ceremonies.

- (a) decorum; frivolity
- (b) decorum; dilatory
- (c) piety; ribaldry
- (d) fidelity; adultery

#### #POST\_9\_RC\_4

A sensible and fair approach would be to let the high-end tax cuts expire as scheduled, but keep the other tax cuts for another year. That would keep more cash in the hands of people most likely to spend it and prop up consumer demand while the economy is weak. It would give Congress and the administration time to undertake tax reform.

Most Congressional Republicans are willing to embrace reform, but only if it is "revenue neutral." There is no question that the system is overly complicated; it is also riddled with hugely costly special deals for special interests. Any reform must streamline the code, make it fairer and — most important — raise more revenue.

Each year, the government provides \$1 trillion in tax breaks. Some of the largest breaks — for itemized deductions and retirement savings — should be retained because they subsidize important goals, like home ownership and old-age security. Right now, wealthier taxpayers get the greatest benefit. The process needs to be reformed so that most of the help flows to those who most need it: low- and middle-income taxpayers.

At the same time, super-low tax rates for investment income should be ended. Capital gains are taxed at a top rate of 15 percent, compared with a top rate for wages and salary of 35 percent. Proponents argue that the lower rate is an incentive to invest, but research shows that it also encourages gaming of the

system. Tax breaks that have outlived their purpose must be ended, starting with subsidies for the oil industry, which is making billions in profits.

The revenue from such reforms could be used to pay down the deficit and allow all tax rates to be lowered, improving incentives to work. The amount of revenue raised and the drop in tax rates will depend on how much tax breaks are curbed.

Congress should consider raising revenues in other ways, like a value-added tax, or carbon taxes. That way all of the needed revenue for deficit reduction, and for what government provides, does not need to be squeezed from the income tax. A value-added tax is conducive to saving, and a carbon tax helps protect the environment.

The public is open to new taxes, and the economic facts are clear. Until tax increases are considered in equal measure to spending cuts, there will be no budget fix.

1. What is the tone of the passage?

(a) Placatory (b) Advisory (c) Premonitory (d) Critical

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

(a) The current tax structure does not give the greatest benefit to low- and middle-income taxpayers.

(b) The current tax structure aims to give the greatest benefit to low- and middle-income taxpayers.

(c) Tax breaks give the greatest benefit to wealthier taxpayers.

(d) The current tax structure does not give the greatest benefit to wealthier taxpayers.

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the last sentence of the passage?

(a) Tax increase will give Congress and the administration time to undertake tax reforms.

(b) The economy can be strengthened if more importance is given to tax increases.

(c) The economy can be strengthened if less importance is given to spending cuts.

(d) The economy can be strengthened with equal importance given to tax increases and spending cuts.

Solutions:

1. OA=1, stories and obituaries, do not specifically match with the first blank and dying does not fit in the second blank.

2. "Appreciation" is a form of expression. so OA=2.

3. Sentence D introduces the subject of pollination and mentions the names of the animals: bees, butterflies, moths, flies and hummingbird that accidentally help in pollination.

B elaborates on why the pollination is accidental. The 'they' in B refers to the animals mentioned in D. So DB is a mandatory pair.

C starts describing the events that take place when these animals go to the plants to obtain their food.

E continues the description of the events and elaborates on what happens when the animals are feeding. So, CE is another mandatory pair.

A explains how the pollination takes place, by rubbing of the pollen from the previous plant to the new one when the animals move from one plant to another.

SO DBCEA is the correct answer.

4. E introduces the topic of books and online articles and states that finding them is easy.

A mentions the difficulty related to the search. Thus, EA is a mandatory pair. D provides the reason for the difficulty which is further explained in B. So, ADB is a sequence.

Statement C mentions the consequence of the plethora of books and articles. The reason for why it becomes difficult to differentiate a good book from a great one is that there are literally thousands of books written on the same topic every year. Statements B and C form a reason-consequence pair.

so EADBC.

5.

1. OA=C , The author analyses the reasons for why Indians are scaling corporate heights. He cites several studies and quotes several managers to understand the factors that have led to the rise of the Indian executive internationally. Option (c) is the answer. Option (a) is

incorrect because even though the author presents facts, he does not refrain from giving his opinion and analysis. 'Didactic' means designed to teach people something, especially a moral lesson. The author does bring in Chinese executives as a comparative example; however, his aim is to understand how the Indian executive scores even over his Chinese counterpart. His tone is not didactic. Option (d) is incorrect because the author never makes an attempt to be argumentative.

2. OA= B , The Indian executive's advantage over his Chinese counterpart has been mentioned in the context of managing bureaucratic hurdles. Option (b) fits in best as the Indian executive works in an environment of constraints and emerges as a better manager than the Chinese executive for whom things are arranged by bureaucrats and politicians. Hence a Chinese executive works in a more structured environment.

Option (a) is an inverted analogy so, it is incorrect. Options (c) and (d) are incorrect as one cannot infer that the Indian executive works in an environment that is controlled or that has many restrictions. Also the term autonomy or self-governance does not apply correctly to the description of the environment that the Chinese executive has to function in.

3. OA=B , The author discusses why Indian managers are good at managing business. He substantiates his points using facts and statements. He mentions various factors that contribute to the success of the Indian executive. In the last lines, he mentions why they are good at networking and lobbying. Keeping in with the central idea of the passage and its last lines, the author would go on to discuss further specific points on how Indian executives are able to manage bureaucratic hurdles. Options (a) and (d) can be ruled out because the author is not primarily using a comparative style in the passage. Option (c) can also be ruled out. There is nothing in the passage to indicate that Indian executives will 'always' scale corporate heights.

6.

1. 'Underscore', as a verb, means to make evident; emphasize. For example: He arrived early to underscore the importance of the occasion. Option (a) is the correct answer. Option (b) is incorrect as it

goes against the meaning of the sentence. Option (c) states that China's refusal undermines the fact that China is not reliable. 'Undermine' means to make something, especially somebody's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective. Thus, option (c) is opposite in meaning to the original statement. Option (d) can also be ruled out as conform cannot be used as a synonym of underscore. so OA= A.

2. OA=D , Refer to the lines "It's an asymmetry...own finished products." from which (a), (b) and (c) can be inferred. (d) is incorrect. Although the use of water is an unresolved issue, it is not a trade issue that needs to be resolved.

7. OA=B , As per the verse, liberal or conservative tendencies are inherent in human beings. "That every boy and every gal...conservative." Hence, (b) is the correct answer.

(a) is incorrect as the words liberal and conservative may not have political connotations.

(c) is also incorrect as everything being reduced to two is a generalization which is not supported by content of the verse.

(d) is incorrect as the verse tells us that either of the two tendencies must exist. The verse is silent on whether these tendencies can co-exist or not.

8. 'Juxtapose A and B' means to put people or things together, especially in order to show a contrast or a new relationship between them. For example: In the exhibition, abstract paintings are juxtaposed with shocking photographs.

Refer to the clue words 'abruptly juxtaposes', 'holy rituals to profane ceremonies' given in the sentence.

Clearly, the first blank should have a positive word and the second blank a negative word. C is the best fit as 'piety' means holiness and 'ribaldry' means not refined; vulgar. The other options fail to express the contrast.

9.

1. Every paragraph in the passage has a line that provides advice on what the government should do with reference to tax reforms. So OA=B

2. "Right now, wealthier taxpayers get the greatest benefit.

The process needs to be reformed so that most of the help flows to those who most need it: low- and middle- income taxpayers." This implies option (a). Option (b) goes against the information in the passage. Option (c) is incorrect as the author states that the current tax break gives the greatest benefit to wealthier taxpayers. This cannot be generalized for all tax breaks. Option (d) is incorrect as it goes against the information in the passage. OA= A

3. More revenues are needed and these can be obtained from other forms of taxation or through tax increases. However, the last line of the passage also states that, "Until tax increases are considered in equal measure to spending cuts, there will be no budget fix." This line implies that equal importance must be given to both tax increases and spending cuts and not only to either one. This rules out options (b) and (c). Option (a) can be ruled out, as there is no implication in the passage towards this assertion. Option (d) best sums up the inference from the last sentence of the passage.

