

VA Revision Event-2 19th August, 2017

#POST_1

#INCORRECT_USE

STICK

- (1) Just throw in a cinnamon stick now.
- (2) He took away every stick of furniture from the apartment.
- (3) He initially came in for a lot of stick about his unconventional approach.
- (4) She stuck at me during every crisis.

#POST_2

#INCORRECT_USE

PLAY

- (1) He's only playing on being an artist – he goes off to Harvard business school next year.
- (2) What do you think you were playing at – you could have burnt yourself!
- (3) Though reluctant, he played along, as he didn't have a choice.
- (4) He had been playing politics in the group all along.

#POST_3

#CORRECT_USE

The probability which is the guide of life is not the mathematical kind, not only because it is not relative to arbitrary data, but to all data that bear on the question at issue, but also because it has to take account of something which lies wholly outside the province of mathematical probability.

- (1) but to all data that bear on the question at issue, but
- (2) but also to all data bearing on the question at issue, and
- (3) but also to all data that bear on the question at issue, and
- (4) but also to all data that bear the question at issue, and

#POST_4

#INCORRECT_USES

- A. Silver, as well as gold, have fallen in price.
B. But, eighty rupees are too much for this bracelet.
C. Between you and I, the bracelet is worth much less than its price.
D. I suggest you to look for something else.
- (1) A and B
 - (2) A and C
 - (3) B and D
 - (4) A, B, C and D

#POST_5

#RC

Last month, when the 86 billion euro French retail giant, Carrefour, announced that it was postponing its entry into India, officials of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board began wondering whether the government's policy on attracting FDI was actually in sync with the global trends. Carrefour runs over 9,600 stores including hypermarkets, supermarkets, discount stores and cash-and-carry trading operations across the world. It is the second largest retailer in the world after Wal-Mart. The French giant had posted senior executives in India to work out its business plans.

Apparently, the French government had thrown its weight behind Carrefour's plans to enter India and had even lobbied hard with the Vajpayee government.

Carrefour, according to sources, pulled back its executives because of the 'lack of clarity and direction' on the part of the government on foreign direct investment in various formats of trading, including retailing. Carrefour had appointed a retail management company to study the Indian market. The company was given to understand that it could opt for the franchisee route for retailing. But it found that there were too many complexities involved in setting up shop through this channel. It also felt that as the investment was huge, it was necessary to be in direct control of the operations. Carrefour's pullout also put the brakes temporarily on the plans of another French retailer, Groupe Casino, which had signed an agreement with Home Stores India to set up a hypermarket chain called "Super Sabka Bazaar". This is not the first time that plans of foreign retail chains to invest in India have come unstuck or run into opposition.

Last year, the government's approval of 100 per cent FDI for cash-and-carry operations to German chain Metro AG came under a scanner after allegations surfaced that the German company was using cash-and-carry as a cover to engage in direct retailing to the consumer. Metro, which clocked global sales of 5 billion euros last year, was given a wholesale trading license to sell over 17,500 food and non-food products, FMCG and white goods at competitive prices to registered traders, caterers, restaurants and other small and medium businesses in all-cash deals.

The German retailer flagged off its state-of-the-art wholesale complex at Bangalore in October. However, the Bangalore traders action committee was soon demanding that the permission to Metro be withdrawn. Metro, however, decided to stick it out by flatly denying it was engaged in retail trading. The German chain blamed local retail chains and wholesalers with vested interests for stoking the controversy.

It wasn't Metro AG alone that had to encounter problems. In Mumbai, even though South African retailer Shoprite chose the franchisee route with Normal Lifestyle, the take off was anything but smooth. The ban on FDI in retail trading was first imposed by the I.K.Gujral government on the ground that it would hurt the livelihood margins of the small retailer or the neighbourhood shopkeeper. Since then, successive governments have held the view that there are 12 million retailers in India and inviting foreign chains would mean creating problems for them. This could have serious repercussions for employment as well, as even small retailers running the neighbourhood kirana (grocery) stores employ a few hands. The argument has found resonance with the RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch even though the 700 big retail stores in the country barely amount for one per cent of the retail trade. Much as the Vajpayee government would like to attract FDI, its policy vis-à-vis retail trading has been thus kept deliberately wishy washy.

The N.K. Singh committee on FDI too toed this line, maintaining that foreign funds may affect the existence of small firms and jeopardise employment opportunities.

Officials of the FIPB, however, feel that there is a clear disconnect between the perception of

policy markers and the global trends on FDI as well as the structural changes taking place in the economy. Retail business is emerging as the largest private industry in the West, ahead of even finance and engineering and accounts for over 8 per cent of the GDP. It comes as no surprise then that over 50 of Fortune 500 and 25 of Asian Top 200 companies are retailers. In some developed countries, retail businesses have shares as large as 40 per cent of the market. Countries affected by currency turmoil and recession have attracted FDI in retail business to pep up their economies. This happened in Thailand and Indonesia, where deregulatory measures in the field were initiated and in Japan, where the Large Scale Retail Store Law was abolished to break the fall in domestic investment. The rapid growth in organised retail business in developed countries is due to the entry of foreign retailers. In Thailand, seven of the world's top 10 retailers have set up shop. China has attracted investments by three of the top 10 retailers, led by Wal-Mart. In Brazil, three top global retailers share about 30 per cent of the market. On the other hand, organised retail business in India is very small despite the fact that India is one of the biggest markets. One estimate puts the size of the market at \$180 billion. Retail business contributes to 10 per cent of the GDP. India also has the largest number of retailers (12 million) though they are mostly small. For a perceptive finance ministry, which now controls the FIPB, the post-liberalisation structural changes in the economy should have underscored the significance of the retail sector on account of its co-relation with the fast growth in the service sector. During the last decade, the manufacturing sector had slumped on demand recession and liberalised imports. For instance, the share of manufacturing and industry in GDP increased marginally from 25 percent to 27 percent between 1991 and 2001 while that of the service sector spurted from 37 percent to 44 percent during the period. Foreign retailers feel that restrictive and confused policy followed by successive government has constrained the flow of funds and technology into the retail sector and left it fragmented, unorganised and small in size. Foreign funds could have helped in setting up large stores that provide a wide choice of goods at competitive prices as well as led to improvements in technology, retailing systems and supply chain management in the retailing industry. Industrial houses like the Tatas, the RPG Group, ITC and HLL have sensed the potential of the retail business and are scrambling for a piece of action. A number of chain stores like Westside (Tatas), Foodworld (RPG) and Shopper's Stop (Rahejas) have already come up. In metropolises, there is a discernible trend of women customers shifting from street corner grocers to supermarkets. A recent study reveals that 17 per cent of food sales in Chennai flows through supermarkets. Going by the current thinking in the FIPB, the issue of clear-cut guidelines being issued for FDI in retail trade could come up afresh after the election. But for that, the incoming government would need some measure of political ingenuity to neutralise the ire of the small shopkeepers, who have emerged as an important political constituency over the years. It is these small retail traders who scuttled the introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) system last year. Backed by the FM, they are in the forefront of the campaign to make life difficult for the foreign retail chains trying to enter India. Interestingly, the lobby seeking foreign funds in retail trade has found readymade support from the tourism ministry which feels that its Incredible India campaign would get a boost if tourists are not fleeced as methodically and regularly as they currently are by avaricious shopkeepers in every street corner. The ministry also feels that with a Wall-Mart or a Carrefour in major cities, India could be projected as a shopping destination as well. If that happens, then Kuala Lumpur and Dubai may have to move over.

Question1- The main reason for Carrefour withdrawing from India is

- (1) the franchisee route of entry is simple.
- (2) vague policy of Government of India for foreign retailers.
- (3) it could easily get direct control of its costly operations.
- (4) lack of tuning between G.O.I. policy and universal trends.

Question2- The opposition of Government of India to the entry of foreigner in retail trading is due to

- (1) fear of greater automation in retailing.
- (2) lack of clear vision of policy makers.
- (3) small firms may not be able to face competition.
- (4) Indian retailers will have to face a lot of hardships and unemployment may increase.

Question3-. The tone of the passage is

- (1) rhetorical (2) magniloquent
- (3) truculent (4) descriptive

Question4- The most appropriate meaning of 'wishy-washy' as used in passage is

- (1) unclear and confused. (2) clear cut negative.
- (3) do as you wish. (4) pin-pointed with lot of restrictions

#POST_6

Pick the word from the alternatives that is most inappropriate in the given usage.

REGURGITATE: He is correct in a few instances but keeps regurgitating those to gain credibility.

- (1) disgorge
- (2) relegate
- (3) reiterate
- (4) parrot

#POST_6_RC_2

According to a leading American newspaper, this year marks the tenth anniversary of Web logging, or blogging, as it is now known. While the exact date of the first blog is contentious, now is as good a time as any to assess the impact that blogs have had on traditional media. Blogs have evolved from compendia of links to avenues for forceful, original comment. People all over the world are using this media in a variety of ways, for subjects as diverse as politics and fashion. Blogging has changed from being a province of the technology geek to becoming part of people's daily lives. Much as people define themselves by the newspapers, magazines, and television shows they watch, there are blogs that cater to almost any interest. Blogs exist to give the world a microphone, to make every person an expert. They make it possible - literally - to say what one wants, with no thought of the consequences. More than that, though, blogs have

changed how and where people get their news. The popularity of sites that bring together various news sources, such as Google News, is a sign of how the relationship between news provider and consumer is changing. Blogs have made possible the rise of what is increasingly referred to as "citizen media", which encompasses blogs and other forms of independent, user-generated content such as photos, videos, voting, etc. User-generated content is creating such an impact that Time magazine's Person of the Year in 2006 was 'you', the average user of the Web 2.0. An entire generation, for whom the Internet is a part of life, is turning to alternative sources of news to shape their world view. Traditional media thus has to change, or face extinction. Readers now compare and contrast the information they receive, and do not accept without question a newspaper's or broadcaster's view of the world. The problem with blogging, though, is that every person cannot be an expert on everything. If one turns to the Web for authentic or reliable information on anything, one is more likely to get a welter of conflicting perspectives, a veritable Tower of Babel. While it enables millions of people to make themselves heard, blogging, therefore, needs to be taken with a pinch of salt. And while established brands need to fight to sustain their credibility and relevance there will remain a place for them.

1. Which of the following options can be correctly inferred from the given passage?

- (1) The date of the first blog is known to only few people.
- (2) Blogs are used to post views only on politics and fashion.
- (3) One can say what one wants (on blogs) without giving thought to repercussions.
- (4) Only technocrats can operate blogs.

2. What does the last paragraph of this passage mainly convey?

- (1) It points out certain disadvantages inherent in blogging.
- (2) It tells that the established brands in media will be unaffected by blogging.
- (3) A person who is not an expert may face problems while blogging.
- (4) There are inordinate alternatives available on net that makes it difficult for a user to get useful information.

3. According to the author, what is the way out there for traditional media?

- (1) It should prepare itself to file bankruptcy sooner or later.
- (2) The traditional media is no longer relevant today and therefore should be done away with.
- (3) It should compare its content with that of blogging sites.
- (4) It should adapt itself to the new trends in order to avoid fading away.

Solutions:

1. OA= 4

The correct usage is 'She stuck by me during every crisis.' (Sticking at something refers to continuing to work hard at it).

2. OA= 1 , The correct usage is 'He is only playing at being (playing at refers to doing something for enjoyment or interest, or without much care and effort).
3. As a rule for correlative conjunction pairs, "not only" has to be followed by "but also" and the parts of the sentence following them have to have parallel construction. All the remaining options violate this rule. SO OA= 1.
4. Statements A, B, C and D, all are incorrect.

In statement A, 'have' should be replaced with 'has'. Words joined to a singular subject by 'as well as' are parenthetical. The verb should therefore be put in the singular.

In statement B, 'are' should be replaced with 'is'. When a plural noun denotes some specific quantity or amount considered as a whole, the verb is generally singular.

In statement C, 'I' should be replaced with 'me'. The object of a verb or of a preposition should be in the objective form.

In Statement D should be written as 'I suggest that you should look for something else'. The verb 'suggest' should be used with a that-clause and not with a to- infinitive.

5. OA= 2,4,4,1

6. OA=2 , The word "regurgitate" refers to "cast or pour out again."
" The word "relegate" (consign or dismiss to an inferior position) is not at all related to the question word and is the inappropriate option.

"disgorge" (put forth)

"reiterate" (say or do again, repeatedly)

"parrot" (mechanically repeat)

So OA= 2.

6_2. OA=3, 1,4