

Memory Based Paper

SBI PO Prelims 2020 (English)

Paper-6

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“You never know how close you are, so never give up on dreams.”

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Vishal Parihar sir

Direction (1-7): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

While the United States has endured as a world leader in traditional warfare for well over a century, the global battlefield today has shifted decisively in the digital realm. With countries like Russia, Iran, and even North Korea showing signs of extremely sophisticated digital maneuvers capable of infiltrating other countries' databases, influencing foreign elections, and even altering physical systems such as hard drives power grids and large-scale digital are already occurring in real-time.

Russia's **meddling** in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections has been one of the

most recent and enduring examples of how foreign actors can use cyber-attacks to influence even the largest political landscapes, with U.S. intelligence officials directly citing President Vladimir Putin and Russian intelligence services as having hacked the Democratic National Committee in order to leak the emails responsible for harming Hillary Clinton's electability. Similarly, Russia's attempt at socially engineering American voters to favor Donald Trump through the buying and promoting of politically-motivated ads on social media—which were estimated to have reached as many as 126 million Americans on Facebook, as well as countless others on platforms like Twitter and YouTube—has brought social media companies under intense scrutiny. While discussions around how to prevent these sorts of large-scale digital attacks are being brought to the forefront of political and social decision-making, little has been done to successfully prevent further forms of infiltration.

In addition to foreign actors' ability to sway political opinion through the use of digital platforms, sophisticated algorithms are also being created that possess the ability to physically alter the world we live in. One of the most alarming examples of this type of hacking is an algorithm known as Stuxnet, a sophisticated computer worm first discovered in 2010 that was created to exploit Windows computers' zero-day vulnerabilities in order to spread itself rapidly throughout computer systems and target centrifuges used to produce uranium—a computer bug that, if successful, has the ability to shut down or adversely affect nuclear weapons and reactors. Similarly, last year's WannaCry ransomware worm saw to it that those with infected Windows

computers—which included high-level organizations such as Great Britain’s National Health Service—would find important files on their PC’s hard drive encrypted, with a message demanding \$300 in Bitcoin to decrypt the files. With the ability of hackers to infiltrate the real world through the digital realm becoming all too common, it is only a matter of time before bigger systems like power grids and communication systems become perilous and all-too-accessible in times of conflict.

At the organizational level, simple tasks such as securing one’s hardware with a complicated password, encrypting and backing up data on a regular basis, and investing in cyber security insurance are basic necessities to securing one’s data against cyber threats. More importantly, the creation of a security-focused workplace culture through the education of staff on the dangers of using unsecured networks, unsecured websites and password sharing can help both companies and the individuals who work for them better secure company-related and personal data. As countries continue to experience conflict on the ground, cyber-attacks and other forms of digital warfare have ultimately created a much more **ambiguous** worldwide landscape and disrupted the traditional balance of power between nation-states. With technology continuing to advance at an unprecedented rate, the complicated nature of conflict between countries and other actors only stands to become more convoluted. However, by focusing more on understanding the many shapes and sizes cyber threats come in as well as how to better defend against such threats, individuals can better prepare themselves for any potential dangers they may experience online or in the workplace. As the government

and other top-level organizations continue to come up with solutions that can safeguard against bigger digital attacks, citizens can rest assured that in times of war, the digital front will remain secure from foreign influencers.

Q1. How is the large scale digital infiltration already occurring in real time?

- (a) As Iran and North Korea used cyber - attacks to influence the largest political landscapes hacking the Democratic National Committee.
- (b) As the Russian hackers have already invaded the communication systems in times of conflict.
- (c) Through invading other countries databases altering physical systems such as hard drives and power grids.
- (d) Since technology is continuing to advance at an unprecedented rate.
- (e) None of these.

S1. Ans. (e)

Sol. Option (e) is the most suitable choice for the answer. Though there has been a mention of ‘large scale digital infiltration’ in the last sentence of the first paragraph ‘With countries like Russia, Iran, and even North Korea showing signs of extremely sophisticated digital maneuvers capable of infiltrating other countries’ databases, influencing foreign elections, and even altering physical systems such as hard drives and power grids, large-scale digital is already occurring in real-time’, but the phrase ‘With countries... .. Such as hard drives and power grids’ only means that the nations such as Russia, Iran, and even North Korea show signs of having capability of infiltrating other countries’ databases, influencing foreign elections, and even altering physical systems such as hard drives and power grids. The phrase does NOT mention if the large scale

digital infiltration is occurring in real-time through infiltrating other countries' databases, influencing foreign elections, and even altering physical systems such as hard drives and power grids'. So, the option (c) isn't the correct answer. The options (a), (b) and (d) are already out-of-context.

Hence, the option (e) is the correct answer.

Q2. What has brought social media companies under intense probe after the 2016 U.S. presidential elections?

(a) Russia made alliance with the U.S. greatest enemy North Korea to launch a missile attack on the election day termed as global battlefield.

(b) Russia used large scale platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Youtube to have reach of 126 million to promote Donald Trump.

(c) Russian hackers allegedly broadcasted emails responsible for tarnishing Clinton's electability.

(d) Both (a) and (c)

(e) Both (b) and (c)

S2. Ans. (e)

Sol. The correct option here is (e) which includes both of the options (b) and (c). Both these options can be traced from the second paragraph of the passage where it is mentioned that Hilary Clinton's electability was affected by the leaking of emails due to the cyber-attack by Russia. The second point that is mentioned is Russia attempted to reach 126 million Americans on Facebook and some other platforms like Youtube and Twitter.

Q3. Which of the followings has been used to describe 'Stuxnet' in the passage?

(a) It can be implied from the passage that Stuxnet is a computer bug that can cause

damage and infect other executable files or documents through an active host program.

(b) Stuxnet spreads slowly throughout computer systems and targets centrifuges used to produce uranium.

(c) Stuxnet though is a powerful computer bug but even if successful does not have the ability to shut down the nuclear reactors.

(d) Stuxnet is a computer worm which is a stand-alone malicious program and thus does not require human intervention.

(e) None of these.

S3. Ans. (d)

Sol. Option (d) is the only appropriate answer here which can be implied as well as is described in the passage. Refer to the third paragraph where it is mentioned that Stuxnet is a sophisticated computer worm discovered in 2010 that was created to exploit Windows computers' zero-day vulnerabilities in order to spread itself rapidly throughout computer systems and target centrifuges used to produce uranium—a computer bug that, if successful, has the ability to shut down or adversely affect nuclear weapons and reactors.

Q4. What all bigger systems are mentioned in a passage which are not yet invaded by the hackers through the digital realm?

(i) Power grid and communication systems.

(ii) Emails and traffic systems.

(iii) The control rooms of the U.S. Intelligence force.

(a) Only (i)

(b) Both (i) and (ii)

(c) Both (i) and (iii)

(d) Both (ii) and (iii)

(e) Only (iii)

S4. Ans. (a)

Sol. Option (a) is the only appropriate choice which includes power grid and communication systems. The question here refers to what all are the systems that hackers have not infiltrated as the global battlefield today has shifted decisively in the digital realm. Now the final answer can be deduced from the last four lines of the third paragraph where it is mentioned clearly that “With the ability of hackers to infiltrate the real world through the digital realm becoming all too common, it is only a matter of time before bigger systems like power grids and communication systems become vulnerable and all-too-accessible in times of conflict.”

Q5. Why is the education of staff on threats of unsecured networks and websites needed according to the passage?

- (a) So as individuals can have access to some of the important encrypted files.
- (b) For the creation of a security-focused workplace culture.
- (c) For the protection of PC's hardware.
- (d) To learn patterns that direct authorized access.
- (e) So as to change the program source codes and be a factor in computer security.

S5. Ans. (b)

Sol. Only option (b) is the correct option. The answer can be traced from the last paragraph of the passage where it is given that the creation of a security-focused workplace culture through the education of staff on the dangers of using unsecured networks, unsecured websites, and password sharing can help both companies and the individuals who work for them better secure company-related and personal data.

Q6. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Meddling

- (a)Extricating
- (b)Evacuating
- (c)Intervening
- (d)Retracting
- (e)Eschewing

S6. Ans. (c)

Sol. Option (c) is the correct choice.

Meddling means interfering in something that is not one's concern.

Intervening means taking part in something so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events.

Hence it is the answer.

Extricating means freeing (someone or something) from a constraint or difficulty.

Evacuating means removing (someone) from a place of danger to a safer place.

Retracting means withdraw (a statement or accusation) as untrue or unjustified.

Eschewing means abstaining from.

Q7. Choose the word which is the OPPOSITE in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Ambiguous

- (a)Bewildering
- (b)Legible
- (c)Enigmatic
- (d)Obscure
- (e)Incomprehensible

S7. Ans. (b)

Sol. Ambiguous means open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning.

Legible means clear enough to read.

Bewildering (adj.) means confusing or perplexing.

Enigmatic (adj.) means difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious.

Obscure (adj.) means not discovered or known about; uncertain.

Incomprehensible (adj.) means not able to be understood; not intelligible.

Directions (8-10): In each of the questions below, there is a word given in bold which is followed by five options. In each of the options, a pair of words is given which is either the pair of synonyms or antonyms or synonym & antonym of the word given in bold. Choose that pair as your answer.

Q8. SPORADIC

(a) Profane: Preface

(b) Scold: Coax

(c) Incapable: Barbaric

(d) Occasional: Periodic

(e) Advisory: Conciliatory

S8. Ans. (d)

Sol. Option (d) is the most suitable answer. Option (d) has the synonym and the antonym of the given word sporadic.

Rest all words do not share a relation.

Sporadic (adj.) means occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated.

Profane means not relating to that which is sacred or religious; secular.

Preface means to introduce or begin (a speech or event) with or by doing something.

Coax means to persuade (someone) gradually or gently to do something.

Barbaric means are savagely cruel.

Advisory means recommended but not compulsory.

Conciliatory means intended or likely to placate or pacify.

Q9. CLANDESTINE

(a) Blazing : Dazzling

(b) Locate: surplus

(c) Covert: conspicuous

(d) Integrity: Rectitude

(e) Coherence : Cohesion

S9. Ans. (c)

Sol. Option (c) is the most suitable choice as the answer. This is so because the two words of the option (c) share the relationship of being a synonym and an antonym respectively of the given word.

Clandestine means kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit.

Covert means not openly acknowledged or displayed.

Conspicuous means attracting notice or attention.

Blazing means very hot.

Dazzling means extremely bright, especially so as to blind the eyes temporarily.

Integrity means the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Rectitude means morally correct behavior or thinking; righteousness.

Coherence means the quality of being logical and consistent.

Cohesion means the action or fact of forming a united whole.

Q10. ASSIDUOUS

(a) Vicious: Powerful

(b) Diligent: Laborious

(c) Anomaly: Deviation

(d) Harsh: Extravagant

(e) Stormy: Pleasant

S10. Ans. (b)

Sol. Option (b) is the most appropriate answer to the word assiduous. This is because the word assiduous (adj.) means showing great care and perseverance.

Furthermore diligent (adj.) means having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties.

Laborious means requiring considerable time and effort.

Vicious means deliberately cruel or violent.

Powerful means having great power or strength

Anomaly means something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.

Extravagant means lacking restraint in spending money or using resources.

Stormy means characterized by strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow.

Pleasant means giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment.

Directions (11-15): In the following questions, a phrase is given in bold whose meaning can be inferred from one of the highlighted words/phrases of four sentences given below each phrase. Choose the most appropriate meaning of the phrase among the four options that can also be replaced by the given phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. If none of the sentences conveys the correct meaning, choose (e) i.e., "None of the above" as your answer.

Q11. **A dime a dozen**

- (a) Websites on health and fitness are **very common** nowadays, but not all of them are accurate and have correct information.

(b) Their piercing war-whoops were blended with the loud beatings of a kind of drum which they had **fabricated**.

(c) The importance of this invention to the cotton industry of the world cannot be **overestimated**.

(d) The IMF also does not **shy away** from helping countries meet their debt service obligations.

(e) None of the above.

S11. Ans. (a)

Sol. The phrase "**a dime a dozen**" means **very common and of no particular value**. Thus, among the given four statements, only the first sentence provides the exact meaning of the phrase and at the same time it can be replaced by the given phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

Fabricated means invented (something) in order to deceive.

Overestimated means formed too high or favorable an estimate of.

Shy away means to move away from or try to avoid something.

Q12. **Run-of-the-mill**

(a) Every year he adds some fresh decoration, some new and **exceptional** scene.

(b) He was determined to open a select school for advanced scholars.

(c) All **mundane** phenomena were inexplicably contorted that night.

(d) There are courses that are foundational and that must therefore be governed by an **eclectic** aim.

(e) None of the above.

S12. Ans. (c)

Sol. The phrase "**run-of-the-mill**" means **lacking unusual or special aspects; ordinary**. Thus, among the given four

statements, only the third sentence provides the exact meaning of the phrase and the highlighted word can be replaced by the given phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

Exceptional means unusually good; outstanding.

Select means (of a group of people or things) carefully chosen from a larger number as being the best or most valuable.

Mundane means lacking interest or excitement; dull.

Eclectic means deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

13. Man of straw

(a) His presence was hardly noticed at first, so **insignificant** was the man.

(b) Everybody can't be as **sensible** and handsome as we are, you know.

(c) Napoleon, himself a sceptic, was **cognizant** of this slave philosophy.

(d) As usual he addressed the dog as though he were a **sentient** being.

(e) None of the above

S13. Ans. (a)

Sol. The phrase "**man of straw**" means **someone who has a weak character**. Thus, among the given four statements, only the first sentence provides the exact meaning of the phrase and the highlighted word "**insignificant**" can be replaced by the given phrase without altering the intended meaning of the sentence. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

Sensible means done or chosen in accordance with wisdom or prudence; likely to be of benefit.

Cognizant means having knowledge or awareness.

Sentient means able to perceive or feel things.

Q14. Under the weather

(a) The lazy worker lied and told his boss he was **indisposed** because he did not want to go into the office.

(b) The officers were still reluctant to **unleash** their troops in pursuit of a defeated enemy.

(c) Despite the **surreal** experience, Jessi saw something in his face that reminded her of the cousins.

(d) He **turned off** only to find he was trapped in a town square with no easy exit.

(e) none of the above

S14. Ans. (a)

Sol. The idiom "**under the weather**" means *slightly unwell or in low spirits*. Moreover, "**indisposed**" which is an adjective means *slightly unwell*. Therefore, the most suitable word that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is *indisposed*. Hence, **option (a)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Unleash means to cause (a strong or violent force) to be released or become unrestrained.

surreal means having the qualities of surrealism; bizarre.

Turned off means leave one road in order to join another.

Q15. Low hanging fruit

(a) For the beauty-care industry, the teen demographic is a new category for them to **easily obtain**.

(b) Many people consider her decision to be a **breach** of trust.

(c) Voters don't like political advertisements in which opponents **disparage** one another.

(d) The next morning, she was **very docile**, but evidently homesick.

(e) none of the above

S15. Ans. (a)

Sol. The idiom '**low hanging fruit**' means *the most easily achieved of a set of tasks, measures, goals, etc.* Moreover, '**obtain**' which is a verb means *get, acquire, or secure (something)*. Therefore, the most suitable phrase that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is 'easily obtain'. Hence, **option (a)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Breach means an act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.

Disparage means to regard or represent as being of little worth.

Docile means ready to accept control or instruction; submissive.

Directions (16-20): In each of the following questions given below, a sentence/paragraph is given with some bold words which may contain errors. Below each of the sentences, a table is given with two columns in which column 'A' contains the list of bold words, and in column 'B' the suggested corrections are listed. You have to choose the best alternative among the four given options. If no correction is required against the given bold words, mark (e), i.e. "None of the above" as your answer.

Q16. While the Economic Survey, in January, had recommended **Piling** the "anachronistic" Act, the law has nonetheless remained a **vital** tool in the government's armoury for protecting consumers from irrational **Liquidity** in the prices of essentials by

tamping down on black marketeers and hoarders.

COLUMN (A)

(1) Piling

(2) Vital

(3) Liquidity

(4) Tamping

COLUMN (B)

(5) Jettisoning

(6) Durable

(7) Volatility

(8) Equating

(a) Both (1) - (5) and (3) - (7)

(b) (2) - (6) and (4) - (8)

(c) (1) - (5)

(d) (3) - (7)

(e) None of the above

S16. Ans. (a)

Sol. Option (a) is the correct answer choice.

Jettisoning means abandon or discard (someone or something that is no longer wanted). Tamping means ram or pack (a substance) down or into something firmly.

Liquidity means the availability of liquid assets to a market or company

Volatility means liability to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse.

Q17. Presence of senior officers with their personnel in the field not only will be **conducive** in building up a spirit of **camaraderie** with them, it will also serve as an **opportunity** to brief the personnel and deter them from any **benevolence**.

COLUMN (A)

(1) conducive

(2) camaraderie

(3) opportunity

(4) benevolence

COLUMN (B)

- (5) inimical
- (6) Animosity
- (7) possibility
- (8) wrongdoing

- (a) (3)-(7)
- (b) (2)-(6)
- (c) (4)-(8)
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) None of the above

S17. Ans. (c)

Sol. Option (c) is the correct answer choice.

Conducive means making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible.

Camaraderie means mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together.

Benevolence means the quality of being well meaning; kindness.

Inimical means tending to obstruct or harm.

Animosity means strong hostility.

Q18. The sight of an endless **streak** of migrant labourers, some of them carrying **toddlers** and the infirm, walking towards India's poorer regions from its economic centres, will remain an **appealing** memory of this inept and insensitive approach that had not taken their particular **circumstances** into account.

COLUMN (A)

- (1) streak
- (2) toddlers
- (3) appealing
- (4) circumstances

COLUMN (B)

- (5) stream
- (6) ripened
- (7) indelible
- (8) Things

- (a) (3)-(7)
- (b) (2)-(6) & (4)-(8)
- (c) (1)-(5) & (2)-(6)
- (d) (1)-(5) & (3)-(7)
- (e) None of the above

S18. Ans. (d)

Sol. Option (d) is the correct answer choice.

Streak a long, thin line or mark of a different substance or colour from its surroundings.

Stream means a mass of people or things moving continuously in the same direction.

Toddlers mean a young child who is just beginning to walk.

Ripened means become or make ripe.

Indelible means not able to be forgotten.

Q19. Autonomous vehicles (AVs) are at the **forefront** of technological advancements and emblematic of **inextricably** linked upside potential and downside risks in artificial intelligence technologies. As automobile and tech companies continue to apply artificial intelligence into **manufacturing** driverless cars, many question what this technology means for the future of **mobility**.

COLUMN (A)

- (1) Forefront
- (2) Inextricably
- (3) Manufacturing
- (4) Mobility

COLUMN (B)

- (5) Recapitalization
- (6) Subjugation
- (7) Nurturing
- (8) Credibility

- (a) (4)-(8) & (2)-(6)
- (b) (1)-(5)

- (c) (1)-(5) & (3)-(7)
(d) (2)-(6)
(e) None of the above

S19. Ans.(e)

Sol. No correction is required in the sentence. All of the given words in bold in the sentence are correct.

Forefront means the leading or most important position or place.

Inextricably (adverb) means in a way that is impossible to disentangle or separate.

Mobility means the ability to move or be moved freely and easily.

Recapitalization is a type of corporate reorganization involving substantial change in a company's capital structure.

Subjugation means the action of bringing someone or something under domination or control.

Nurturing means helping or encouraging the development of.

Credibility means the quality of being trusted and believed in.

Q20. By making citizens **innocuous** for offering a bribe to a public servant, the anti-corruption law has been brought in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption. The only **exception** to this rule is when one is forced to give a bribe. This exception **kicks** in only when the fact that one was forced to pay a bribe is reported to a law **enforcement** authority within seven days.

COLUMN (A)

- (1) Innocuous
(2) Exception
(3) Kicks
(4) Enforcement

COLUMN (B)

- (5) Liable
(6) Assuage
(7) Muffles
(8) Blundering
(a) (4)-(8)
(b) (1)-(5)
(c) Both (2)-(6) & (4)-(8)
(d) Both (1)-(5) & (3)-(7)
(e) None of the above

S20. Ans.(b)

Sol. Option (b) is the appropriate answer. This is so because citizens can be made liable for that is responsible by law; legally answerable and not innocuous which means not harmful or offensive.

Assuage means make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense.

Muffles means wrap or cover for warmth.

Blundering means making or characterized by stupid or careless mistakes; clumsy.

Innocuous means not harmful or offensive.

Directions (21-25): In the following passage against each number four words are suggested in bold which may or may not fit into the sentence contextually. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. Find out the most appropriate alternative reflecting the word which doesn't fit into the blank appropriately and thus fail to give contextual meaning to the paragraph. If no such error is their mark (e) i.e. "all are correct" as your answer choice.

India's shipping industry is at a (21) **crossroads**. The country is aiming to make big **strides** in the maritime sector and investing billions of dollars to **modernise** and

set up new ports as well as **related** infrastructure. But its domestic shipping industry is finding it tough to compete with foreign shipping lines in carrying India specific export-import trade due to cost (22) **disadvantages** and an **uneven** playing field. Indian shipowners have asked the Centre to **consider** having a national fleet. This is in line with other major maritime powers supporting their own shipping firms, for **adjusting** control and securing the transportation of critical cargo. A national fleet policy (23) **initiates** that ships engaged in trade must be flagged, or registered, in India **irrespective** of whether they are owned by Indian or foreign shipping lines. Though India has allowed 100% FDI in shipping since 2001, foreign lines are **yet** to flag in India.

Insisting that India must have a national fleet, Anil Devli, CEO, Indian National Shipowner's Association (INSA), asked, "If foreign shipping lines control over 90% of India's cargo, why should they not be asked to flag some of their vessels in India and pay taxes like us." Foreign lines register their vessels in favourable tax regimes such as Panama and at their local (24) **jurisdictions**. Japan, China, the U.S., Malaysia, Indonesia and European nations practice absolute **cabotage** to protect their shipping lines. The EU practices cabotage even in ship recycling. China **ensures** that 600 million tonnes of coastal cargo is carried by Chinese vessels only. Cabotage **means** to a legal restriction that limits the transportation of goods and people within the country by that country's own transport services. Japan ensures that all its imports are carried on by vessels owned, built and financed by (25) **entities** registered in the country. The Donald Trump **system** in the U.S. has **proposed** at least 30% of gas

exports should be **executed** by their national carriers.

- Q21. (a) crossroads
 (b) strides
 (c) modernise
 (d) related
 (e) all are correct

S21. Ans. (e)

Sol. all are correct

- Q22. (a) disadvantages
 (b) uneven
 (c) consider
 (d) adjusting
 (e) all are correct

S22. Ans. (d)

Sol. Replace 'adjusting' with 'retaining'

Foreign countries are not supporting their shipping firms for 'adjusting' control but they are doing so for 'retaining' control. It is clear from the passage that they want to retain control of their shipping industry.

Adjusting: adapt or become used to a new situation

- Q23. (a) initiates
 (b) irrespective
 (c) yet
 (d) Insisting
 (e) all are correct

S23. Ans. (a)

Sol. Replace 'initiates' with 'mandates'

initiates: cause (a process or action) to begin
 Initiates means starting something new, which does not fit in the context of the sentence. The national fleet policy is already there so initiates cannot be used here. The policy mandates or ask shipping companies to register in India therefore 'mandates' or any

other word similar in meaning to mandates will replace 'initiates':

Q24. (a) jurisdictions

(b) cabotage

(c) ensures

(d) means

(e) all are correct

S24. Ans. (d)

Sol. replace 'means' with 'refers'. Use of 'to' after 'means' is wrong but 'to' is used after 'refers' therefore 'means' will be replaced by 'refers'.

Q25. (a) entities

(b) system

(c) proposed

(d) executed

(e) all are correct

S25. Ans. (b)

Sol. Replace 'system' with 'administration'. Use of system after Donald Trump's name is not right as system does not belong to one man but government and administration can belong to one man.

Directions (26-30): Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which one sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate/coherent way.

Q26. Suffering is part of the natural order of the universe. At all levels in nature we see the struggle for survival, growth and decay, emergence of new life and a return to earth of what is biodegradable. Lacking the machinations of a mind, the order of creation just below humans does not cry out in anguish at its loss and destruction. Its passing

away or transformation when it occurs, takes place often unnoticed, but always without complaint. _____

(a) Death and destruction is never "avenged".

(b) Suffering came to be seen as punishment, sickness was often considered to be a consequence of sin.

(c) It has been aptly said that suffering not transformed, is suffering transmitted.

(d) The energy locked in our victimhood is released for our own good and that of others.

(e) None of these

S26. Ans. (a)

Sol. **Option (a)** is the correct choice. The paragraph is describing various stages of life forms. The loss or death or destruction is a part of life and will occur inevitably. Thus, the next sentence that shall complete the paragraph should further elaborate to conclude the thought on death and destruction. Except for option (a) all the other statements fail to adhere to the theme of the paragraph. Therefore, the paragraph can be completed using the statement **"Death and destruction can never be "avenged"."**

Q27. Floodplains are formed over millions of years by the flooding of rivers and deposition of sand on riverbanks. These sandy floodplains are exceptional aquifers where any withdrawal is compensated by gravity flow from a large surrounding area. Some floodplains such as those of Himalayan rivers contain up to 20 times more water than the virgin flow in rivers in a year.

_____ If we conserve and use the floodplain, it can be a self-sustaining aquifer wherein every year, the river and floodplain are preserved in the same healthy condition as the year before.

- (a) It would also generate substantial revenue for the cities.
- (b) This is the philosophy of “conserve and use”.
- (c) Preserving the floodplain in its entirety is critical for this scheme to work.
- (d) Since recharge is by rainfall and during late floods, the water quality is good.
- (e) None of these

S27. Ans. (d)

Sol. **Option (d)** is the most suitable choice. The paragraph is describing the floodplains and the water accumulated in rivers. The sentence before the blank has described the water accumulated in Himalayan rivers. The next sentence that should provide coherence to the paragraph must describe the way through which this water is collected. This is mentioned only in option (d) [**Since recharge is by rainfall and during late floods, the water quality is good**]. All the other given options cannot be interlinked with the paragraph and are befitting to the blank provided.

Q28. As search engines and algorithms replace encyclopedias and libraries, tools like Elias are bound to become a more salient part of teaching. After all, memory has been outsourced since the written word came into place and an android is merely an engaging vessel through which children can access AI and internet-based learning software.

Freed from the dissemination of knowledge, assisted in assessing students, teachers can direct their attention to individual students who need it, and provide perspective rather than facts.

- (a) Teaching, as a profession, can conceivably be enhanced by the use of such protocols.
- (b) In Finland, efforts are on to provide teachers with a prosthetic for patience.
- (c) Elias is also a robot.
- (d) It is worrying because it reflects an increasing alienation between North and South in political discourse.
- (e) Resistance to this will take the form of greater regional assertion.

S28. Ans. (a)

Sol. The given paragraph is about the role of AI and internet-based learning software in the field of teaching. Read the sentences prior to the blank space, it cites certain protocols which can make the medium of teaching quite easier. Among the given options, only sentence (a) fits perfectly into the theme of the paragraph. Other sentences given as options are unsuitable and irrelevant in the context of the paragraph. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

Q29. Renegotiating balance of power and new forms of cultural identity are all routine activities in politics. But they acquire more explosive potential when this negotiation takes place under three conditions: The political existence of a project of cultural hegemony, a fluid party system at the state level, and greater state centralization. Right now this discontent seems only fleeting. But it would be a mistake to reduce it to the mere technicalities of a Finance Commission mandate.

. And it would be a mistake to underestimate how quickly cultural anxieties can snowball into a potent political force, in an age marked by fragile and uncertain identities on the one

hand, and mean and ungenerous leaders on the other.

(a) It is worrying because it reflects an increasing alienation between North and South in political discourse.

(b) The discontent may not seem significant now.

(c) There is more psychological and cultural anxiety fueling it.

(d) The southern gauntlet is just an opening salvo.

(e) Southern politics has itself been stuck in a rut.

S29. Ans. (c)

Sol. The first line of the paragraph itself generates the theme of the paragraph. Read the sentence just following the blank space, it talks about the existence of cultural anxieties in politics. Thus, the sentence which can fill up the blank coherently is an option (c). Other statements given as options are irrelevant to the given blank as they all are out of the context. Hence option (c) is the correct choice.

Q30. When banks insure a farmer, they go by his declaration at the time of making the KCC and insure accordingly. There is no attempt to verify which crop has been actually planted and there is no system of asking the farmer to fill some form for crop insurance. As a result, when a crop loss is reported, there is a dispute between the farmer and the insurance company. It is catch 22 situation.

On the one hand, the banker cannot name any other crop other than declared in the KCC, for a change would cause the invalidation of the card. On the other, on the farm there is some other crop which needs to be insured for the claims to be processed by the insurer.

(a) This brings me to DBT in fertiliser subsidy.

(b) The KCC is necessary to procure good quality inputs to raise productivity and production.

(c) This will ensure better targeting and encourage digital transactions.

(d) Some fear the farmers may misuse the crop loan if it is not linked to the scale of finance.

(e) The result is that the farmer refuses to get his crop insured.



S30. Ans. (e)

Sol. The given paragraph is about the policies and terms and conditions related to crop insurance. Read the sentences prior to the blank space, it mentions that there are a catch 22 situations between the farmer and the insurance company. Among the given options, only statement (e) gives the befitting

conclusion to the paragraph. Other options, though sound similar to the theme of the paragraph, cannot be used as an appropriate conclusion. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.



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