

# IBPS Clerk Previous Year Question Paper 2016

## English Language (Questions & Solutions)

**Directions Q. (1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it:

Amrutananda was a well-known and rich landlord in his village. He and his wife were both cunning and extremely sly. They made a lot of money by cheating and ill-treating their labourers who worked in their fields. One day, a young man named Manikya came to Amrutananda, asking for work. Amrutananda was pleasantly surprised. No one ever wanted to work for him because of his reputation, and here was someone walking right into his house. Manikya's next few words made him even happier. Manikya said, 'I will work for you for free. You need not pay me a salary, only give me a place to sleep, two sets of clothes and two meals a day.' Mrutananda was filled with joy when he heard this and was about to agree when Manikya added, 'I have only one condition: I will tell you the truth always, but one day of the year I will lie to you.' Amrutananda, who lied happily every day of the year, agreed to this odd condition. So Manikya joined him. He was a wonderful worker - hard working and trustworthy. He was very honest and soon became Amrutaminda's, right-hand man. A year went by, and because of Manikya's hard work, Amrutananda had an excellent harvest. He and his wife Mandakini decided to have a big feast to celebrate. They invited all their relatives and friends, who came from across the village and outside to participate in this celebration. Everyone was looking forward to the delicious feast being planned: On the morning of the feast, Amrutananda decided he would also give away some gifts to his relatives, just so that he could show off. So he set off for the market in his cart. As soon as he was out of sight, Manikya went running to his mistress, Mandakini. He wept loudly and beat his chest. Then he fell on the floor sobbing, and announced, 'The master is dead. The cart overturned on the road'. Our master has been flattened like a chapatti. As soon as Amrutananda's wife and relatives heard this, they started wailing. Manikya rushed out, saying he would bring back the body, while everyone started preparing for the last rites. Manikya now went running to his master and said "Master! Your wife is dead. My kind, the loving mistress is dead. A cobra bit her and she fell to the ground, as blue as the spring sky." Amrutananda was stunned. His beloved Mandakini, his partner in all his schemes, was dead! He couldn't believe it. He rushed back home shouting her name. Mandakini was weeping loudly, sitting in the courtyard. When she saw her husband run in, she stopped mid-wail, and Amrutananda too stood open-mouthed and speechless. Then they fell into each other's arms, unable to believe their eyes. At once they turned to Manikya, "What is the meaning of this, Manikya?" his master demanded in a stern voice. Manikya smiled, "Remember my

condition, that I would lie only once in a year? Well, I choose today. Do you see what lies can do? They nearly destroyed your life. Now think about what happens to the people you lie to every day,” Saying this he walked out, leaving behind a stunned and ashamed landlord.

**Q. (1)** Why didn't anyone want to work for Amrutananda?

1. He always ill-treated and cheated his labourers.
2. He wanted people to work for him for free.
3. He never paid their dues on time.
4. He hardly made them work.
5. He had too many conditions.

**Answer:** 1

**Solution:** Anyone didn't want to work for Amrutananda because he always ill-treated and cheated his labourers.

**Q. (2)** Why did Manikya volunteer to work for Amrutananda for free?

1. His food and shelter would be taken care of.
2. He was fond of Amrutananda.
3. He had heard many stories of Amrutananda's generosity.
4. He wanted to teach Amrutananda a lesson.
5. He could not find work anywhere else.

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** Manikya volunteer to work for Amrutananda for free because he wanted to teach Amrutananda a lesson.

**Q. (3)** What was Manikya's intention behind lying to his master?

- A. He wanted to draw some attention to himself.
- B. He was jealous of his master.
- C. He wanted to cause trouble during the celebration.

1. Only A
2. Only B and C
3. Only C
4. Only B
5. None of these

**Answer:** 5

**Q. (4)** What could be the moral of this story?

1. Lying destroys lives
2. Never employ anyone for free
3. Always think before you cry
4. Never show off your wealth
5. Feasts always lead to tragedy

**Answer:** 1

**Solution:** Manikya wanted to teach the couple a lesson as they had the habit of lying and cheating others. He wanted to teach them a lesson and show how lying destroys lives. Hence, the aptest moral of the story is lying destroys lives.

**Q. (5)** Why did Amrutananda and his wife, Mandakini, wish to have a celebration?

1. They wanted to treat Manikya to a feast for his effort in the successful harvest.
2. They wanted to give Manikya a farewell.
3. They received a rich harvest and so wanted to have a feast.
4. They had abundant food and did not know what to do with it.
5. They wanted to show off their wealth to their neighbours.

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** Amrutananda and his wife, Mandakini, wish to have a celebration because they received a rich harvest and so wanted to have a feast.

**Q. (6)** Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage

**Overtuned**

1. Slipped
2. Rotated
3. Inverted
4. Accident
5. Blocked

**Answer:** 3 (Inverted)

**Q. (7)** Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage

**Odd**

1. Acceptable
2. Normal
3. Favourable
4. Unique
5. Strange

**Answer:** 5 (Strange)

**Q. (8)** Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage

**Stunned**

1. Shocked
2. Confused
3. Doubtful
4. Hesitant
5. Scared

**Answer:** 1 (Shocked)

**Q. (9)** Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

**Cunning**

1. Pure
2. Sly
3. Innocent
4. Hasitant
5. Superior

**Answer:** 3 (Innocent)

**Q. (10)** Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

**Ashamed**

1. Happy
2. Proud
3. Grateful
4. Peaceful
5. Guilty

**Answer:** 2 (Proud)

**Directions Q. (11 - 20):** In the given passage, there are blanks, each of which is indicated by a number. Find the suitable word from the options given in each question and fill the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningfully complete.

Zenith Edgar and her daughter, Ria, **Q. (11)** \_\_\_\_\_ just heard that the Bulgarians have scored a tremendous victory in a cavalry charge led by Ria's fiancé, Robert Downy, who is in the same regiment as Ria's father, Major Paul Edgar, Ria is so **Q. (12)** \_\_\_\_\_ with the noble deeds of her fiance that she **Q. (13)** \_\_\_\_\_ that she might never be able to live up to his nobility. At this very moment, the maid, Emily, rushes in with the news that the Serbs are being chased **Q. (14)** \_\_\_\_\_

the streets and that it is necessary to lock up the house and all of the windows. Ria promises to do so later and Emily leaves, But as Ria is reading in bed, shots are heard, there is a noise at the balcony window, and a bedraggled enemy soldier with a gun appears and \_\_\_ **Q. (15)** \_\_\_\_\_ to kill her if she makes a sound. After the soldier and Ria exchange some words, Emily calls from outside the door, she says that several soldiers want to \_ **Q. (16)** \_\_\_\_\_ the house as a Serbian soldier was seen climbing her balcony. When Ria hears the news, she turns to the soldier and hastily decides to hide him. The soldiers investigate, find no one, and leave. Ria then calls the man out from hiding, she learns that the soldier carries no cartridges. He explains that \_\_\_ **Q. (17)** \_\_\_\_\_ of carrying bullets, he always carries chocolate into battle. Furthermore, he is not an enemy, he is a Swiss, a professional soldier hired by Serbia. Ria gives him the last of her chocolate creams, which he \_\_\_ **Q. (18)** \_\_\_\_\_. He \_ **Q. (19)** \_\_\_\_\_ her for saving his life. Now that the Bulgarian soldiers are gone, Ria wants the “chocolate cream soldier” (as she calls him) to climb back down the drainpipe, but he \_\_\_ **Q. (20)** \_\_\_\_\_ to; whereas he could climb up, he hasn’t the strength to climb down.

**Q. (11)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Have
2. Has
3. Had
4. Was
5. Are

**Answer: 1**

**Solution:** Since it is the case of the plural form of nouns, ‘**have**’ should be used.

**Q. (12)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Afraid
2. Impressed
3. Miffed
4. Hurt
5. Dejected

**Answer: 2**

**Solution:** The context implies that a cavalry led by Ria's fiancé marked a tremendous victory. The news must have made Ria happy. Therefore, '**impressed**' is a viable option here.

**Q. (13)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Brags
2. Boasts
3. Flaunts
4. Fears
5. Swanks

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** The context applies that Ria was overwhelmed with the victory of her fiancé. However, at the same time, she was worried that she might never be able to live up to her fiancé's nobility. Therefore, the appropriate word will be '**fears**'.

**Q. (14)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. On
2. At
3. Of
4. Through
5. Over

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** At this very moment, the maid, Emily, rushes in with the news that the Serbs are being chased through the streets and that it is necessary to lock up the house and all of the windows.

**Q. (15)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Threatens
2. Blackmails
3. Warning
4. Threatened
5. Warned

**Answer: 1**

**Solution:** According to the given context, the most appropriate word will be '**threatened**'.

**Q. (16)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Explored
2. Examined
3. Search
4. Find
5. Searched

**Answer: 3**

**Solution:** Infinitives always take the base form of the verb with the preposition 'to'. In this passage 'find' cannot be the answer. Hence, '**search**' is the appropriate answer.

**Q. (17)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Additional
2. Instead
3. Other
4. Substitute
5. Replacement

**Answer: 2**

**Solution:** According to the given context, the appropriate word is '**instead**'.

**Q. (18)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Ate
2. Consume
3. Tossed
4. Throws
5. Devours



**Answer:** 5

**Solution:** Ria gives him the last of her chocolate creams, which he **devours**.

**Q. (19)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Blames
2. Reprimands
3. Appreciates
4. Thanks
5. Upbraids

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** The context implies that the soldier was obliged to Ria as she saved his life and therefore he should be thankful to her. Hence, the appropriate word is '**thanks**'.

**Q. (20)** Find out the appropriate word in each case.

1. Accepts
2. Refuses
3. Rejected
4. Declined
5. Refused

**Answer:** 2

**Solution:** According to the given context, the word '**refuses**' is the appropriate word.

**Directions Q. (21 - 30):** Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. If there is no error, the answer is 'No error'. (Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any.)

**Q. (21)** The Kozhikode conclave also saw /the ruling party trying for /a image makeover to counter the opposition's allegations of it / being pro-rich and anti-dalit. / No error

1. The Kozhikode conclave also saw

2. the ruling party trying for
3. a image makeover to counter the opposition's allegations of it
4. being pro-rich and anti-dalit
5. No error

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** 'an image' makeover to counter the opposition's allegations of it

**Q. (22)** The new economic policy and liberalization/process followed by Government of India for 1991 / paved the way for privatization / of insurance sector in the country. / No error

1. The new economic policy and liberalization
2. process followed by Government of India for 1991
3. paved the way for privatization
4. of insurance sector in the country
5. No error

**Answer:** 2

**Solution:** We use 'since' to talk about a specific point in time or a time when the action started.

Hence, the corrected sentence is 'The new economic policy and liberalization process followed by Government of India since 1991 paved the way for privatization of insurance sector in the country.'

**Q. (23)** There were / many people / present on the / award function.

1. There were
2. many people
3. present on the
4. award function
5. No error

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** There were many people present at the award function.

**Q. (24)** Our past history and our present position / in the world demands/ that we should be more cautious and vigilant/ about our freedom and security.

1. Our past history and our present position
2. in the world demands
3. that we should be cautious and vigilant
4. about our freedom and security
5. No error

**Answer:** 2

**Solution:** We see that there are two subjects, history and position, hence the verb should be plural. So the verb should be '**demand**' instead of 'demands'.

**Q. (25)** Nothing worthwhile has been done/ to ameliorate the conditions of the/ rural population which are only slightly different/ from their quadruped counterparts.

1. Nothing worthwhile has been done
2. to ameliorate the conditions of the
3. rural population which are only slightly different
4. from their quadruped counterparts
5. No error

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** Nothing worthwhile has been done to ameliorate the conditions of the rural population which are only slightly different from **that of their** quadruped counterparts.

**Q. (26)** Motivation for ruralism in/ underdeveloped countries is/ understandingly different from / that in developed countries.

1. Motivation for ruralism in
2. under developed countries are
3. understandingly different from
4. that in developed countries
5. No error

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** Motivation for ruralism in underdeveloped countries is **understandably** different from that in developed countries.

**Q. (27)** The shift in relations has been manifested / most recently in the first bilateral military / exercises between China and India / that take place in November 2003. / No error.

1. The shift in relations has been manifested
2. most recently in the first bilateral military
3. exercises between China and India
4. that take place in November 2003
5. No error

**Answer:** 4

**Solution:** that **took** place in November 2003

**Q. (28)** While most IIT students sought (a) /shelter from the hailstorm hitting campus, (b) / a bolt of lightning struck a tree (c) / by Bidwell Mansion, splitting it in half (d).

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. d
5. No error

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** a bolt of **lightning** struck a tree

**Q. (29)** My husband being unwell sent (A)/ a directive to his boss (B)/ briefing why could he (C)/ not attend the office on that day. (D)

1. (A)
2. (B)
3. (C)
4. (D)

5. No error

**Answer:** 3

**Solution:** My husband being unwell sent a directive to his boss briefing **why he could not** attend the office on that day.

**Q. (30)** Nature worship is an age (A)/ old tribal belief based (B)/ on the premise that all (C)/ the creations of nature have to be protected. (D)

1. (A)
2. (B)
3. (C)
4. (D)
5. No error

**Answer:** 5 (No error)

