

IBPS Clerk Previous Year Question Paper 2017

English Language (Questions & Answers)

Directions Q. (1 - 5): In the given question, one statement with a blank is given along with four words. Two of the given words can fit into the given blank. Five options with various combinations of these words are given. Pick up the combination of the words that fit into the blank.

Q. (1) The bank officials have been found _____ of taking bribes.

- a. Receptive
- b. Guilty
- c. Probable
- d. Accurate

- 1. a-c
- 2. b-c
- 3. a-d
- 4. c-d
- 5. a-b

Answer: 2 (b-c)

Solution: 'Guilty' means 'chargeable with a particular fault or error'.

'Probable' means 'a person who is likely to become or do something'

Q. (2) The Defence Minister decided to give a briefing about the increased military _____ in contemporary times.

- a. Requirements
- b. Threats
- c. Assistance
- d. Assumptions

- 1. a-d
- 2. b-c

3. a-b
4. b-d
5. a-c

Answer: 3 (a-b)

Solution: The Defence Minister decided to give a briefing about the increased military **requirements/threats** in contemporary times.

Q. (3) The neighbours decided to come _____ after seeing the Christmas decoration being set up in the alley.

- a. Across
- b. On
- c. Over
- d. About

1. b-d
2. a-c
3. c-d
4. a-b
5. b-c

Answer: 3 (c-d)

Solution: The neighbours decided to come **over/about** after seeing the Christmas decoration being set up in the alley.

Q. (4) As the Governor _____ the officials to abolish the redundant act, the established system got disrupted.

- a. Asked
- b. Requested
- c. Ordered

d. Inquired

1. b-c
2. a-c
3. b-d
4. a-b
5. a-d

Answer: 2 (a-c)

Solution: As the Governor **asked/ordered** the officials to abolish the redundant act, the established system got disrupted.

Q. (5) The waiter came to our table and asked if we wanted _____ coffee, as it was closing time for the cafe.

- a. Much
- b. More
- c. Small
- d. Some

1. a-b
2. b-c
3. b-d
4. c-d
5. a-d

Answer: 3 (b-d)

Solution: Coffee is an uncountable item and thus can't use 'much' or 'small' to explain its quantity.

Thus, the sentence will be: The waiter came to our table and asked if we wanted **more/some** coffee, as it was closing time for the cafe.

Directions Q. (6 - 10): The given question has a statement with an idiom in it, which has been mentioned in bold. The statement is followed by five options; pick the option that best explains the meaning of the idiom, as used in the statement.

Q. (6) The company was keen at **cutting down** on the employee overheads in order to make the business profitable.

1. Reduce
2. Spike
3. Ensure
4. Elongate
5. Affiliate

Answer: 1 (reduce)

Solution: The phrase '**cutting down**' is used to show the reduction from the previous value.

Q. (7) It was difficult to **put up with** the nagging relatives during the growth years.

1. Decorate
2. Issue
3. Endure
4. Richochet
5. Prioritise

Answer: 3 (endure)

Solution: '**To put up with**' means '**to tolerate or endure**'.

Q. (8) The commissioner advised the fugitives to **turn in** themselves to get some legal respite.

1. Lessen
2. Accentuate
3. Retard
4. Liberate
5. Surrender

Answer: 5 (surrender)

Solution: The phrase '**to turn in**' means '**to surrender**'.

Q. (9) Aniket was willing **to go overboard** for receiving a scholarship to pursue higher education overseas.

1. Remove
2. Stretch
3. Incur
4. Liquidate
5. Enhance

Answer: 2 (stretch)

Solution: '**To go overboard**' means 'be very enthusiastic' i.e., '**to overstretch oneself**'.

Q. (10) The central bank was of the idea that it was not suitable **to bail out** the ailing cooperatives.

1. Depart
2. Alter
3. Entertain
4. Reverse
5. Rescue

Answer: 5 (rescue)

Solution: '**To bail out**' means '**to rescue someone**'.

Directions Q.(11-15): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

When Hurricane Harvey loomed off the coast of my home state of Texas, it seemed to fill the entire Gulf of Mexico. When it roared on land, it pummeled the towns of Rockport and Port Aransas, whose tawny beaches I've walked with my kids, pointing out the indigo sails of Portuguese man o' war jellyfish.

Harvey's eye took direct aim at the University of Texas' Marine Science Institute, flattening not just the facility itself, but priceless samples awaiting analysis. After Harvey left Port Aransas, it spun back into the Gulf of Mexico over record sea temperatures as great as 4 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Thermodynamic laws require that warmer air holds more water vapour. The heat armed the storm with a mighty arsenal of water vapour. Then Harvey returned to land, dumping a catastrophic amount of rain on Houston. My Facebook feed filled with pleas for rescue from the rising waters. Friends' houses flooded — houses that had always been on dry land before. A chemical plant blew up, twice. Toxic chemicals oozed from Superfund sites. Dozens died in the deluge, mostly by drowning. And all the while, alongside the heartbreak and horror, I kept thinking about a strange harbinger: jellyfish. Play Video Diaphanous in form yet menacing in a sting, jellyfish have a powerful capacity to capture our imagination. They undulate in a primal rhythm, blinking open and closed like eyes that can peer into the soul of the sea. And what they are seeing are changes produced by us here on land. Because we burn fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gasses, not just the atmosphere but ocean waters are warming. At the same time, our ship traffic transports animals to new places, and sometimes these exotics find home-like conditions where in the past those conditions would have been unsuitable. That's what happened in the eastern Mediterranean, where a jellyfish from the tropical Indian Ocean has found warm, homey waters and now forms huge aggregations called blooms that stretch for tens of miles every summer. The fierce stings of these animals chase beach-goers out of the water. Their gooey bodies clog machinery at power plants, halting operations. Rampant coastal development provides new habitat for a jellyfish stage called a polyp that looks like a sea anemone. When it finds a hard surface like a dock or a jetty to grow on, a single polyp can proliferate into a dozen or even more medusae. And fields of polyps grow on those hard structures. That's likely what happened off the coast of Italy, where gas platforms are thought to be the home for a new invasion of jellyfish. In the twentieth century in the Adriatic Sea, moon jellies, pinkish with their characteristic four-leafed clover on top, were a rarity.

Now they are ubiquitous. And as we wash pollution into our waters, we create low- oxygen environments. Some jellyfish, with their low metabolic rate due to their a-cellular jelly insides, can survive more easily there than fish, with their oxygen-guzzling muscled tissues. That is part of what happened in the Yellow Sea, where pollution is unchecked. It is the birthplace of a maroon jellyfish that reaches a weight of 500 pounds. Blooms of the creature were a once-a generation event before 2000 — the kind of thing fishermen mentioned to their sons. But jelly zillas swept from China in the Tsushima Current, have plagued Japan's coast almost every year of the 21st century. In 2009, a fishing boat caught so many that their weight capsized the vessel. (Fortunately, the crewmembers were rescued.)

And our lack of oversight of the fishing industry, which has removed more than 90% of the large fish from the seas, has depleted the predators of jellyfish as well as their competitors. Jellyfish are eaten by some fish, and jellyfish eat the same small zooplankton that fish do. The ecological vacuum left by unrestrained fishing can allow jellyfish to expand their influence on marine ecosystems. That's what happened off the coast of Namibia, once one of the worlds.

Q. (11) Jellyfish can survive in polluted water better than other fishes. Why?

- I. They have oxygen gulping muscled tissues.
- II. They have a low metabolic rate.
- III. They eat zooplankton for survival.

1. Only I
2. Only II
3. Both I and II
4. Both II and III
5. All are correct

Answer: 4 (Both II and III)

Solution: Jellyfish can survive in polluted water better than other fishes because they have a low metabolic rate and eat zooplankton for survival.

Q. (12) Why Hurricane Harvey is termed as devastating?

1. Many houses got flooded during the hurricane
2. Many people died due to drowning
3. Toxic chemicals got released from superfund sites

4. Chemical plants got blown up.
5. All of the above

Answer: 5

Q. (13) What is the main idea of the passage?

1. Jellyfish is an endangered species.
2. Low oxygen content due to water pollution has caused changes in the aquatic ecosystem.
3. Informing some unknown facts about jellyfish.
4. The destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey.
5. How to improve the ecological balance?

Answer: 2

Solution: According to the given passage, low oxygen content due to water pollution has caused changes in the aquatic ecosystem.

Q. (14) Pick up the fact(s) about Jellyfish that is(are) related to Namibia.

1. Low oxygen content has caused a reduction in the number of jellyfish.
2. Jellyfish can extensively increase their population in case of ecological imbalance.
3. Unregulated fishing activities have led to a stark decrease in a number of Jellyfish predators.
4. Both B and C.
5. All are correct

Answer: 3

Solution: The fact about Jellyfish that is related to Namibia is that the unregulated fishing activities have led to a stark decrease in a number of Jellyfish predators.

Q. (15) Which of the following statement(s) is(are) true in the context of the given passage?

1. Moon Jellyfish is found in the Yellow sea where pollution is unchecked.
2. Hurricane Harvey with strong winds battered the entire Gulf of Mexico.
3. Jellyfish sweeping from China have afflicted Japan's coast.
4. Jellyfish survive more than other fishes in a low oxygen environment.
5. Only 2 and 4

Answer: 5 (only 2 and 4)

Solution: Statement 2 has been mentioned at the starting of the first paragraph. Statement 4 has been discussed in the middle of the first paragraph. Thus, the correct response is option 5 as it combines both statement 1 and statement 3.

Directions Q. (16 -20): The given question contains one statement that is divided into five parts, out of which the first part is correct. There is some error in the three of the remaining four parts of the statement, while one part is correct. The correct part is your answer. In case all the parts are incorrect, the last option is your answer.

Q. (16) The trouble with / mental illness are / that it is rarely / diagnosed latter than / it should suitably be.

1. mental illness are
2. that it is rarely
3. diagnosed latter than
4. it should suitably be
5. All are incorrect

Answer: 4

Solution: The corrected sentence is - 'The trouble with mental illness is that it is generally diagnosed later than it should suitably be.'

Q. (17) Recurrence of scams / in the recent / decades can be credited by / the increasing in / the bureaucratic lenient.

1. in the recent
2. decades can be credited by
3. the increasing in
4. the bureaucratic lenient
5. All are incorrect

Answer: 1

Solution: Recurrence of scams in recent decades can be credited to the increase in the bureaucratic leniency.

Q. (18) The proactive approach of / a city authorities / have led to the reduction / with unwanted federal expenses / in tax collection.

1. a city authorities
2. have led to the reduction
3. with unwanted federal expenses
4. in tax collection
5. All are incorrect

Answer: 4

Solution: The proactive approach of the city authorities has led to the reduction in unwanted federal expenses in tax collection.

Q. (19) It has always been / difficult with the political / machinery to meshing with / the judiciary because / of the conflicts of interest.

1. difficult with the political
2. machinery to meshing with

3. the judiciary because
4. of the conflicts of interest
5. All are incorrect

Answer: 3

Solution: It has always been difficult for the political machinery to mesh with the judiciary because of the conflicts of interests.

Q. (20) My driver revved the engine / hard in an attempt to increasing / the available power over / the engine, but failed / due to the favorable weather.

1. hard in an attempt to increasing
2. the available power over
3. the engine, but failed
4. due to the favorable weather
5. All are incorrect

Answer: 3

Solution: My driver revved the engine hard in an attempt to increase the available power to the engine, but failed due to the unfavourable weather.

Directions Q. (21 - 26): In each of the question given below, a/an idiom/phrase is given in bold which is then followed by five options which then try to decipher its meaning as used in the sentence.

Choose the option which gives the meaning of the phrase most appropriately in the context of the given sentence.

Q. (21) The deal was completely open and **above board**.

1. Mislead
2. Profitable
3. Dupe
4. Respect
5. Honest

Answer: 5

Solution: In the context of the given sentence, '**above board**' means '**honest**'.

Q. (22) For most businessmen, the central questions will **turn on** taxation.

1. Matter
2. Consider
3. Attack
4. Concern
5. Unsettle

Answer: 4

Solution: '**Turn on**' here means '**point of interest**' or '**concern**'.

Q. (23) They sought a controlling interest rather than a **takeover**.

1. Spend
2. Partnership
3. Endorse
4. Approve
5. Buyout

Answer: 5

Solution: '**Takeover**' means an act of assuming control of something. Therefore the appropriate word will be '**buyout**'.

Q. (24) I think he was just **putting on** an act to get sympathy.

1. Tolerate
2. Assume
3. Perform
4. Deceive
5. Effect

Answer: 4

Solution: 'Put-on' means 'an attempt to deceive someone'.

Q. (25) I can **put up with** the house being messy, but I hate it if it's not clean.

1. Ignore
2. Forget
3. Delay
4. Remain
5. Bear

Answer: 5

Solution: 'Put up with' means to accept or continue to accept an unpleasant situation or experience. Therefore, the appropriate word will be '**bear**'.

Q. (26) He **gave in** to my suggestion after I had shown him the plans.

1. Leave
2. Defeated
3. Defy
4. Agree
5. Resign

Answer: 4

Solution: 'Gave in' here means to finally agree to what someone wants, after refusing for a period of time. Therefore, the appropriate word will be '**agree**'.

Directions Q. (27 - 30): Choose the appropriate word from the given set of words for the blank which best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Q. (27) The government slashed interest rates on small savings schemes, including the Public _____ Fund and Kisan Vikas Patra.

1. Providence
2. Provident
3. Providend

4. Prominent
5. None of the above

Answer: 2 [Public Provident Fund (PPF)]

Q. (28) The country's GDP can grow by 7.9 per cent next fiscal if the monsoon is normal and the government implements the reform _____ announced so far.

1. Leisure
2. Pressures
3. Treasures
4. Measures
5. None of the above

Answer: 4 (Measures)

Q. (29) Peru has declared an emergency three weeks after a major oil _____ burst, affecting two rivers in the country's northwest.

1. Beltline
2. Sideline
3. Pipeline
4. Outline
5. None of the above

Answer: 3 (The word '**pipeline**' fits in the blank which means a **long pipe**).

Q. (30) Payment banks will cater to individuals and small businesses and are being set up to accept demand _____, remittance services, Internet banking and other specified services.

1. Credits
2. Loans
3. Deposits
4. Cheques
5. None of the above

Answer: 3 (As per the meaning of the sentence, the word '**deposits**' fits in the blank.)