

SBI PO Mains Previous Year Question Paper 2020 - English Language

Direction: Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Certain words are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of these.

The grassy forests of Bandipur, like many dry deciduous “forests” in south India, are not forests at all. The trees here are adapted to fire and the dry grasses fuel it frequently in the dry months between monsoons. These ecosystems are more open than closed-canopy forests and the hardy vegetation found here can withstand drought conditions.

Jayashree Ratnam, associate director of the wildlife biology and conservation programme at the National Centre for Biological Science, said that these forests are mesic savannas. “Having worked for a while in African savannas and being very familiar with the idea that mixed tree grass ecosystems were distinctive from forests when we returned to India and started visiting various field sites, we were struck by the similarities of these sites with African savannas,” she said.

Mesic savannas receive more rainfall than some other iconic savannas of the tropics, but such ecosystems the world over are characterised by frequent burning and drought. India, however, has a blanket fire suppression policy in place and this is doing more harm than good to these tree-grass ecosystems, find a series of studies. “The more we worked and documented, the more we realised that viewing these ecosystems as forests resulted in a fundamental misunderstanding of their functional ecology, especially the roles of fire and herbivores in maintaining these ecosystems,” added Ratnam. Savannas are ecosystems having a continuous layer of grass along with a discontinuous tree canopy. However, this structural definition of a savanna doesn’t take into consideration other biological traits of individuals and communities, which provide clues about the evolution and functional ecology of this ecosystem. Savanna trees have a number of adaptations to living in a fire-driven ecosystem. Their large underground storage organs and roots contain much of their resources and fire cannot damage these stores. Saplings re-sprout quickly and grow rapidly. Adult trees have less dense canopies than forest species, allowing more sunlight to permeate to the ground level. Mature trees also have thick bark. A 2019 study found that on average, savanna tree species from peninsular India produced twice as much bark as evergreen forest trees.

Historically, indigenous people in India used controlled burning as a way to manage their forests. The Soligas of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, for example, would set fires early in the summer for a wide variety of reasons. Ground fires, they believe, kept hemiparasites at bay, and now, adult trees are falling prey to these organisms that depend on them in part for their survival. Soligas find that the invasive *Lantana* has spread, to the detriment of understory plants and altering the structure of the forest significantly in the process. This spread of *Lantana* can have detrimental effects across trophic levels. “Allowing for periodic fires creates a mosaic of different densities of woody vegetation and also prevents the dominance of some weedy species such as *Lantana camara*. What we see now in most peninsular Indian “forests” is that fire has been totally banned and as a result *Lantana* has completely taken over the understory. Since few herbivores eat the leaves of *Lantana*, this is going to

reduce ungulate density and therefore negatively affect large carnivores such as the tiger,” said Abi T Vanak, an associate professor with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.

Q 1. Which of the following is/are correctly inferred from the given passage?

- I. In a forest, the plants do not have distinctive roles.
- II. Presence of rainfall is often a sign of lack of forest fires.
- III. In order to protect its forests, India must let them burn.

- A. Only I
- B. Only III
- C. Both II & III
- D. Both I & II
- E. All are correct

Q 2. Which of the following is not an assumption that supports the arguments presented in the first paragraph?

- A. Forest fires usually occur where there is little to no moisture in the air.
- B. Grassy forests are common in southern India.
- C. Deciduous forests are immune to fire.
- D. Deciduous trees do not obstruct the sunlight from reaching the ground.
- E. None of the above

Q 3. Given below is a possible inference that can be drawn from the facts stated in the second paragraph. You have to examine the inference in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. “The tree-grass ecosystems of savannas are identical throughout the world.”

- A. Definitely true
- B. Probably true
- C. The data are inadequate
- D. Probably false
- E. Definitely false

Q 4. Which of the following statements is true about Savannas with reference to the given passage?

- A. They are usually incapable of holding moisture.
- B. Their adaptation in a fire-driven ecosystem includes increased immunity to forest fires.
- C. The understorey in savannas rely on constant sunlight.
- D. Both B & C
- E. All A, B & C

Q 5. Which of the following statement (s) is/are NOT TRUE in accordance with the information provided in the passage?

- I. There is a bigger market for deciduous forest trees than evergreen forest trees.
- II. Uncontrolled growth of hemiparasites has caused a reduction of canopy.
- III. The indigenous people were not consulted while making the forests of India.

- A. Only I
- B. Only III
- C. Both II & III
- D. Both I & II
- E. All are correct

Direction: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Global warming, largely caused by industrial development and consumer demands, has been causing havoc across the world. Temperatures are shooting up, floods have been ravaging South China and Northeast India, unseasonal rains and, ironically, delayed and poor monsoon rains are experienced. A major solution to **mitigate** such climate changes is to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, which causes this warming. In an effort to try and limit this warming, many countries across the world are gathering together and agreeing to make efforts to limit the rise in temperature to no higher than 1.5 degrees by the year 2050. The major way to do so is to increase the number of plants, trees and forests across the world. They all absorb carbon dioxide from the air, and with the help of sunlight and water, produce food (staple for us) and oxygen (which we breathe). **And the wood and timber they offer are used by us in buildings and furniture. They are, thus, justly named in Sanskrit as Kalpataru — the wish-giving tree.**

Yet, we kill them: deforestation has been going on decade after decade across the world, affecting the weather as well as the lives of plants, animals, microbes and the livelihood of human tribes that live in forests. The total surface area of our Earth is 52 billion hectares (Ha), and 31% of this has been forest cover. But the huge Amazon forests of South America are being chopped off for commercial reasons. Peru and Bolivia in the western Amazon region are the worst affected by such deforestation; so are Mexico and its neighbours in Mesoamerica. Russia, with forests occupying 45% of its land area, is chopping off trees. Large scale deforestation this kind has contributed to global warming over the years.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines a “forest” as a land area of at least 0.5 hectares, covered by at least 10% tree cover, _____ . Using this definition, a group of Swiss and French ecologists have analysed these 4.4 billion hectares of tree canopy that can exist under the current climate. And, excluding existing trees and agricultural and urban areas, there is room for an extra 0.9 billion hectares. Their analysis using the latest ecological methods, was published two weeks ago. Thus, there is the potential climate change mitigation through global tree restoration. They point out that more than 50% of this restoration potential can be found in six countries (Russia, USA,

Canada, Australia, Brazil and China). While it is not clear how much of this land is public or private, they confirm that the calculation of 1 billion hectares (>10% tree cover) is achievable.

Happily enough, several group (and governments) in countries, notably the Philippines and State government in India have moved towards more tree plantations. In India with its 7,08,273 sq km land area, 21.54% has tree cover. And between 2015 and 2018, we have added 6,778 sq km. Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh while Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan have the least.

Q 6. As per the given information, infer the impact of increasing demand on nature?

- A. Agriculture will become an attractive source of income for more people.
- B. Earth's climate will face catastrophic changes.
- C. Plantation will happen for more production of goods having great demand.
- D. There will be less natural calamities with the use of advance technologies.
- E. None of these

Q 7. Which of the following statement is false as per the information given in passage?

- A. Cutting down trees is the reason for the decrease in the Greenhouse gases
- B. Approximately one-third land is covered by forest of total surface area
- C. Countries need to come forward to manage increasing temperature
- D. Many major countries are facing deforestation due to commercial purpose
- E. None of these

Q 8. Which of the following statement supports 'partial recovery' by some nations?

- A. Only six countries are responsible for full restoration while all countries are responsible for deforestation
- B. The effect is more of cutting down of the largest forest in the world
- C. Only six countries among the many, are able to restore more than half of the forest
- D. Deforestation is more majorly due to two countries which are South America and Russia
- E. None of these

Q 9. Select the word which is a synonym of the word 'mitigate' which is in bold in the passage?

- A. Lessen
- B. Emphasize
- C. Exaggerate
- D. Promote
- E. None of these

Q 10. Which of the following step(s) is/are taken by different countries are governments?

- I. Governments are planning to form an international organization to make rules more stringent.
- II. Overseas governments are coming forward to promote plantations.

III. Huge plantation has been initiated by State governments in many states.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii) and (i)
- D. Only (iii) and (ii)
- E. All (i),(ii) and (iii)

Directions: Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has probably been the most devastating of financial and social crisis of recent times, leading to suspension of almost all economic activity and forcing a countrywide lockdown. While the INR 20 lakh crore economic recovery has assuaged some apprehensions, some sectors that have been more affected than others, and sectors that could help with economic recovery have been overlooked.

Tourism, which contributes 5.06 per cent in India's GDP (2016-17) is one such industry which has been ignored in this recovery package. The ongoing pandemic, travel restrictions, and the country wide lockdown have brought the entire tourism industry to a standstill, and unlike other sectors, tourism will take longer to recover, especially leisure tourism. This will have a direct impact on states like Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim and other north-eastern states which depend extensively on tourism as a source of state revenue.

The EU has provided benefits in the form of liquidity support, fiscal relief, and easing of state aid rules for those in the tourism business and is currently considering a tourism recovery plan. Italy, one of the worst country to be affected by COVID-19, has recently announced a four billion euros bailout package for tourism and will incentivise domestic tourists to holiday on home soil. The French government too has announced an eighteen billion euros "Marshall Plan for Tourism" bailout for tourism. Countries such as US, UK and Singapore too have initiated focussed efforts to revive tourism. India's lack of focus on tourism and its conspicuous absence from the recovery package is both surprising and disappointing. Even more so when the government has been paying particular attention to the sector these last six years.

For the tourism industry, this is an excellent time to develop a common safety and sanitation standard for hosting and serving its customers. The industry must also utilise this opportunity to adopt ecological waste disposal practices and adopt environment-friendly day to day practices.

It is quite evident that the tourism sector in India needs a redoubled and renewed push for its revival in the post-COVID-19 world. The government must consider an immediate recovery package and plan that focuses on the tourism sector, not just because it is one of the worst affected, but also because it is arguably the largest source of employment and source of income for many MSMEs.

Q 11. Which of the following is not an assumption that supports the argument – ‘India needs to provide incentives to the domestic tourists.’?

- A. Different countries of the world have provided a bail-out package for the tourism sector to enable it to recover from the adverse effects faced due to Covid.
- B. India has paid close attention to it for the past six years and one hopes that it is reflected in their bail out package in the post covid era.
- C. Many states in India are dependent on domestic tourists as they contribute a significant amount to the state revenue.
- D. Even with an end to the lockdown, many people are afraid to travel as India lacks a common safety and sanitation standard.
- E. None of these.

Q 12. Which of the following sentences connects the first and the second paragraph of the passage correctly?

- A. In order to improve the flow of credit to this sector, tourism must be included under priority sector lending (PSL).
- B. The Government should consider supporting the hotel and restaurant industry by subsidising their fixed costs.
- C. Interestingly, the global scenario is completely different.
- D. The sector also has strong forward and backward linkages to other sectors such as agriculture, transport, handloom, and FMCG to name a few.
- E. Disruptions in tourism sector will render many people in unemployed.

Q 13. Which of the following statement (s) is/are NOT TRUE in accordance with the information provided in the passage?

- I. Participants in tourism sector have adopted an ecological approach towards the daily operations.
 - II. Italy is mainly focussing on their domestic tourists in order to recover from the adverse effects of Covid on tourism.
 - III. Majority of the state revenue is collected from leisure tourism in several Indian states.
- A. Only I
 - B. Only II
 - C. Both II and III
 - D. All of them
 - E. None of them

Q 14. Given below is a possible inference that can be drawn from the facts stated in the fourth paragraph. You have to examine the inference in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity.

‘National governments and local authorities are acting to discourage and prevent domestic tourism and people visiting second homes.’

- A. Definitely true

- B. Probably true
- C. The data are inadequate
- D. Probably false
- E. Definitely false

Q 15. Which of the following statements can be correctly inferred from the passage?

- A. The devastation caused by Covid 19 is similar to that caused by other epidemics that the world has seen till date.
- B. The Indian government has provided for a comprehensive recovery package for the economy.
- C. Many countries in the world are specifically targeting only the tourism sector for economic recovery.
- D. Tourism can be of many types and forms.
- E. None of these

Q 16. Which of the following statements mentions the purpose of the given passage?

- A. To analyse the impact of Covid 19 on the tourism sector.
- B. The measures taken to boost the tourism sector in India after the disastrous effects of Covid -19
- C. The economic recovery programme of the Indian government to combat the effects of Covid 19
- D. The current condition of the tourism sector in India.
- E. A comparative study on the steps taken to recover the tourism sector after Covid 19 between India and other major countries.

Q 17. Direction: In the given sentence, some parts are printed in bold. The emboldened parts may or may not be correct. Choose the part which is incorrect and needs improvement. In case all the parts are correct, choose (E) "All are correct" as the answer.

The Russians again broke out northward; but some **of the Japanese squadrons hanged on** to the **remnant of the enemy's battle-fleet**, and the others **dealt with the numerous** Russian vessels that were unable to keep up.

- A. The Russians again broke out
- B. of the Japanese squadrons hanged on
- C. remnant of the enemy's battle fleet
- D. others dealt with the numerous
- E. All are correct

Q 18. In the given sentence, some parts are printed in bold. The emboldened parts may or may not be correct. Choose the part which is incorrect and needs improvement. In case all the parts are correct, choose (E) "All are correct" as the answer.

I had **better to explain our** use of **the manual alphabet**, **which** seems to **puzzle people** who do **not know us**.

- A. better to explain our
- B. the manual alphabet, which
- C. to puzzle people

- D. not know us
- E. All are correct

Q 19. In the given sentence, some parts are printed in bold. The emboldened parts may or may not be correct. Choose the part which is incorrect and needs improvement. In case all the parts are correct, choose (E) "All are correct" as the answer.

In 1815, **when the Dartmouth board of trustees** was rent by factions, the majority, **which were Federalists** and Congregationalists, **removed the president**, John Wheelock, who was a Presbyterian, and **appointed Francis Brown in his place**.

- A. when the Dartmouth board of trustees
- B. which were Federalists
- C. removed the president
- D. appointed Francis Brown in his place
- E. All are correct

Q 20. In the given sentence, some parts are printed in bold. The emboldened parts may or may not be correct. Choose the part which is incorrect and needs improvement. In case all the parts are correct, choose (E) "All are correct" as the answer.

The author or the final redactor has impressed a **certain linguistic character on the book**, which **differentiates it not only from all** secular writings of the time, **and also from all the New Testament** books, including the Johannine

- A. The author or the final redactor
- B. certain linguistic character on the book,
- C. differentiates it not only from all
- D. and also from all the New Testament
- E. All are correct

Directions: In the following question, two sentences I and II have been given. In each sentence, some words have been highlighted, which may or may not be grammatically and contextually appropriate at its current place. Words in the sentence I may be exchanged with words in sentence II and vice versa, to make both the sentences grammatically and contextually correct. If both the sentences are correct as it is, choose 'No exchange required' as your answer

Q 21.

- I. Wind projects cooking (A) characterisation of the site and data collection (B) for the long-term, the mill (C) of which has been on developers.
 - II. Back in the day she would collect (D) kernels of groundnuts from a local oil onus (E) and prepare a require (F) stove by making cakes out of them.
- A. B-D & C-F
 - B. A-E & B-F
 - C. A-F & C-E

- D. B-D, A-E & C-F
- E. No exchange required

Q 22.

I. Risks to emerging projects elderly (A) costs, while states and distribution companies (discoms) pacify (B) the lowest-possible stories. (C)

II. Most increase (D) women, however, find glory in their suffering and sometimes, I feel they try to expect (E) the guilt of their reduced functionality through such tariffs. (F)

- A. A-D, B-E & C-F
- B. A-E & B-F
- C. A-F & C-E
- D. B-D, A-E & C-F
- E. No exchange required

Q 23.

I. Competition prompts cooked (A) power producers (IPP) to quote low tariffs with the expectation of accessing consumed (B) and windy land but increasing demand for good sites raises prices, making projects unviable. (C)

II. I never cheap (D) food made on such a stove as my mother always independent (E) on an oven fired (F) by liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

- A. A-D, B-E & C-F
- B. A-E & B-F
- C. A-F & C-E
- D. B-D & A-E
- E. No exchange required

Q 24.

I. Due to high terrains, (A) wind projects face a higher risk of curtailment while (B) them at a disadvantageous place with respect (C) to solar projects.

II. putting (D) urban, high population density and plain areas saw a rapid (E) access to such sources, difficult variability (F) with low population density are yet to have such accessibility.

- A. B-D & A-F
- B. A-E & B-F
- C. A-F & C-E
- D. B-D, A-E & C-F
- E. No exchange required

Q 25.

I. Agricultural workers are deprived (A) of mechanised tools to ease their work, but have no popularly (B) as even basic things as irrigation pumps are not available (C) to them.

II. Labour Day, respite (D) known as International Workers' Day, has many historical anecdotes (E) attached to it but what it precisely is identified (F) with is the state of the world's labour force.

- A. A-D & B-E
- B. A-E & B-F
- C. C-D & C-E
- D. C-F & B-D
- E. No exchange required

Directions: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five pair of options are given. Find out the appropriate pair of words which fits the blank appropriately without changing the meaning.

U.S. President Joe Biden's attempts to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), better known as the Iran nuclear deal, have not seen any _____ (26) with both sides waiting for the other to blink. The Biden administration says it would return to the deal if Iran starts complying with its terms. Tehran, on the other side, asks the U.S., which unilaterally _____ (27) the deal under the Donald Trump administration in May 2018, to return to the agreement first and lift sanctions on Iran. The EU's efforts to organise direct U.S.-Iran talks were also unsuccessful as Tehran reportedly _____ (28) the offer. Iran has also accelerated its nuclear programme. This game of chicken continues as the clock is ticking. Iran will elect a new President in June. Hassan Rouhani, who bet his presidency on the deal — only to be repudiated by Mr. Trump — cannot stand in a third consecutive election. There is no guarantee that a moderate like Mr. Rouhani would be elected this time. And it is not a secret that there is considerable opposition among the hardliners, a powerful constituency, towards any kind of _____ (29) with the U.S. Mr. Biden's best bet is to get the nuclear agreement back on track before Mr. Rouhani leaves office.

To be sure, Mr. Biden has moved with a sense of urgency after _____ (30) power. He appointed a special envoy for Iran, showed signs of rebalancing ties with Saudi Arabia, and sent clear signals to Tehran about America's desire to get back to the deal. But these actions do not seem to be enough to _____ (31) the trust after the acrimonious Trump years. Some of Iran's concerns are genuine. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Iran had cooperated with the U.S. in the war against the Taliban. But once the Taliban were _____ (32) out of power, the Bush administration branded Iran as part of an "Axis of Evil" along with Iraq and North Korea. As President Barack Obama offered diplomacy, the Iranians grabbed the opportunity, leading to the signing of the JCPOA in 2015.

Q 26.

- A. anatomy, speculate
- B. significance, implication
- C. breakthrough, success
- D. surprise, factor

E. rival, enemy

Q 27.

- A. Relate, oppose
- B. thaw, announce
- C. resolve, tangle
- D. prevail, provoke
- E. quit, leave

Q 28.

- A. rejected, refused
- B. routed, directed
- C. extend, enhance
- D. include, involve
- E. describe, recall

Q 29.

- A. agreement, consent
- B. conflict, infringement
- C. reallocate, defuse
- D. engagement, involvement
- E. growing, becoming

Q 30.

- A. violate, break
- B. deploy, secure
- C. assuming, undertaking
- D. granting, allowing
- E. giving, renounce

Q 31.

- A. indicate, reason
- B. deluge, dilute
- C. forming, planning
- D. rebuild, restore
- E. enshrine, implicate

Q 32.

- A. delineated, dividing
- B. appoint, posted
- C. driven, push

- D. aligned, commute
- E. remove, vanish

Direction: In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately.

Copper coins, milk and honey are (###Q33###) in a human-sized glass vitrine. Each side of Donald Rodney's sculpture shows the process of verdigris blooming across the coins in strata of glowing blue and green, fading in places to muddy brown or revealing flashes of copper as the materials react to each other over time. Bodily decay, death and lost dreams.

Land of Milk and Honey II is a memento mori. The Birmingham-born artist made the piece for a 1997 exhibition at the South London Gallery that he developed as a (###Q34###) to his father who had died three years earlier. The work gained further tragic resonance following the artist's own untimely death the following year.

The curdling materials represent the artist's body suffering from sickle cell anaemia, a disease that (###Q35###) affects people of African and Caribbean family descent, where diseased red blood cells cause damage and decay throughout the body. The title of the piece refers to the hope Rodney's father and other families of their generation had when migrating to the UK from Jamaica in the 1950s; but like the milk in the sculpture, his dreams soured when (###Q36###) to the realities of life as an immigrant in Britain. Through these dual metaphors, Land of Milk and Honey II functions as a conceptual portrait of the tragic and heroic lives of two generations.

Rodney's wide-ranging practice (###Q37###) automaton, computer programmes, photography, X-ray prints and skin sculptures. Sometimes beautiful and occasionally shocking, but always (###Q38###) and eloquent, these works explore his experience of life in a diseased body and living in a society diseased by racism.

Land of Milk and Honey II was donated by the artist's estate and the Contemporary Art Society in 2014 and has quickly become a star of the collection. Eventually, the work will lose all of the green colouring, as lower parts of the sculpture already have, but it is this (###Q39###) – knowing that it will continue to decay – that make every moment with this compelling work a precious, bittersweet interaction.

Q 33. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Unbolted
- B. Latched
- C. Encased
- D. Unfurled
- E. Anointed

Q 34. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Eulogy
- B. Castigation
- C. Onslaught
- D. Invasion
- E. Crucifixion

Q 35. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Clumsily
- B. Caressingly
- C. Abruptly
- D. Allegorically
- E. Disproportionately

Q 36. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Swanned
- B. Frequented
- C. Exposed
- D. Incessant
- E. Abluted

Q 37. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Encompassed
- B. Conceded
- C. Culled
- D. Divulged
- E. Confided

Q 38. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Apathetic
- B. Ambitious
- C. Indolent
- D. Enervated
- E. Lackadaisical

Q 39. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Impertinence
- B. Audacity
- C. Temporality
- D. Effrontery

E. Temerity

Q 40. In each of the following statements, there are some highlighted phrases which may or may contain a grammatical error. Find out which highlighted phase in both the statements have errors. If there is no error, choose 'no error' as your answer.

I. This campaign was a failure as the Houthis (i) entrenched themselves in the north-west despite of the military and economic challenges

II. The Anti-Bank Fraud Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have arrested two persons (iii) for taking loans from a private bank by (iv) producing fabricated documents.

- A. (i) and (iii)
- B. (iii) and (iv)
- C. (ii) and (iii)
- D. (i) and (iv)
- E. No error

