

In SBI Clerical Cadre (Phase-I) Examination 5-10 questions based on Reading Comprehension may be asked. In the questions based on Reading Comprehension, a passage is given with some questions. For each question, five alternatives are suggested. The candidate is required to choose the appropriate answer from these alternatives.

These questions are designed to test a candidate's ability of understanding the passage, his power of analysing the problem and his ability of choosing the appropriate answer in proper perspective.

Generally, the passages in the examination are about economics, social issues, politics or some short incident. The questions are usually asked in the following ways

- Choosing true or not true/false statement
- Drawing conclusions
- Finding the meaning of a sentence or phrase used in the passage
- Giving a suitable title for the passage
- Choosing the synonym or antonym

Rapid Clues

- First read the passage and the questions at a decent pace.
- Read the passage again keeping the questions in mind and choose the appropriate answer.
- Make sure that you understand exactly what is being asked in the question.
- The synonym or antonym, for a word used in the passage, should be chosen according to its meaning in the passage.
- Do not get bogged down if there is a question you do not understand or you can't solve. You can come back to this question later if you have time at the end of the test.

- Be careful not to be misled by answer choices that are only partially true or partially satisfy the problem posed in the question.
- Always read all the answer choices before selecting the answer.
- Questions are to be answered on the basis of the information provided in the passage. You are not expected to rely on outside knowledge of a particular topic. You should not use your own experience or views to answer a question.

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 150) Read each of the following passages carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

PASSAGE 1

Man does not live by bread alone: he needs intellectual stimulus as well as spiritual ballast. Religions form the basis of ethical life. Without a sense of morality, social life becomes tenuous instead of being cohesive; political life crumbles under the weight of dishonesty, deceit and corruption. Dr Carl Jung, the famous Zurich psychologist, wrote "During the past 30 years, people from all civilised countries have consulted me. Among all my patients over thirty-five, there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life, and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook." Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) went one step further and declared "The mainspring of strength of every race lies in its spirituality and the death of the race begins the day that spirituality wanes and materialism gains ground."

The question, however, arises: What kind of religion do we require? A religion that fosters love and lets peace and goodwill prevail on earth or a religion that is intolerant and puts back the clock of progress? Do we require a universal religion or do we need harmony of all religions? It would be unrealistic to think of a universal religion, which is synthetic product of elements taken from all the world's great religions. What the world needs today is the 'soothing comfort' of religion, the different religions retaining their identity and their followers pursuing their different paths with an absolute sense of freedom. Inter-faith harmony and the consciousness of the essential unity of all religions are the sine qua non for a better world order.

1. Having a sense of morality

- (1) makes one more intellectual
- (2) makes one more acceptable in the society
- (3) makes one unsuitable in the political field
- (4) makes one dishonest in public life
- (5) gives one an edge over others

2. What do you understand by the statement "Man does not live by bread alone: he needs intellectual stimulus as well as spiritual ballast"?

- (1) Man cannot survive without intellectual stimulus
- (2) Spiritualism is essential for the survival of man
- (3) Bread may be essential for physical development of man but the dose of intellect and spiritualism necessary for the growth of his soul
- (4) Man can survive without bread also
- (5) None of the above

3. What does the observation of Dr Carl Jung suggest?

- (1) People below the age of thirty-five have little sense of religion
- (2) Religion finds little acceptance in the civilised countries
- (3) All religions lead to a single path

- (4) Having a religious outlook on life makes one mentally sound
- (5) None of the above

4. How can inter-faith harmony be created in the world?

- (1) By merging all the religions into a single body
- (2) By delivering lectures on the finer aspects of every religion
- (3) By making the world free of religions
- (4) By having a universal religion
- (5) None of the above

5. Which of the following is true in context of the passage?

- (1) An idea of world religion can bear positive fruit
- (2) Immorality breeds corruption
- (3) In the present context religions are mixed with politics
- (4) Various religions are based on contradictory thinking
- (5) None of the above

6. According to Swami Vivekananda, which of the following is true?

- (1) Spiritualism is the lifeblood of any race
- (2) Materialism is not acceptable in any society
- (3) Man cannot live by materialism
- (4) Spiritualism is opposed to materialism
- (5) None of the above

7. What is the central theme of this passage?

- (1) No place for materialism in our society
- (2) Man and culture
- (3) Religion for harmony
- (4) Adherence to morality
- (5) Duties of a man

Directions (Q. Nos. 8 - 10) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

8. Ballast

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (1) Foundation | (2) Lesson |
| (3) Awakening | (4) Blending |
| (5) Devotion | |

9. Deceit

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (1) Anarchy | (2) Plunder |
| (3) Corruption | (4) Disbelief |
| (5) Cheating | |

10. Synthetic

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| (1) Sentimental | (2) Artificial |
| (3) Philosophical | (4) Natural |
| (5) Emotional | |

PASSAGE 2

It may be quite a while before climatologists are able to predict rainfall in the American Midwest by measuring snowfall in the Himalayas. But there is one prediction which they can confidently make now, and that is that the earth's ice cover from the polar ice caps to the Himalayas is thawing at an alarming rate. So much so that over 50% of the planet's mountain glacier mass could be history by the turn of the next century. According to the latest findings of the US-based environmental thinktank, Worldwatch Institute, the Arctic Sea ice has shrunk by nearly 40% in the last 25 years, even as Antarctica's extensive ice fields and glaciers have been badly 'bleeding' at their edges. This would indicate that the earth has entered a period of climatic change that is likely to cause widespread environmental, economic and social disruption over the next century if emissions of heat-trapping gases are not reduced. As a result of global warming, average planetwide temperatures have been going up steadily.

If the levels of carbon dioxide the bad boy of global warming in the atmosphere are allowed to increase at the present rate, more heat will be trapped in the

planetary cocoon, raising global temperatures to scorching highs. The polar ice caps will melt and the resultant rise in sea levels will be catastrophic for low-lying island-states and countries with large coastal populations, such as Marshall Islands and Bangladesh. Regional flooding will threaten water supplies and dramatically alter the habitats of many flora and fauna. This is particularly bad news for such regions as northern India, home to half of the total Indian populace who depend wholly on the glacier-fed rivers for their drinking water and irrigation needs.

With the Himalayan ice caps melting like ice-cream on a hot summer day, these snow-fed rivers will first swell and then run dry, triggering off devastating floods, followed by a desolating drought. People used to think there was time to sort out problems related to climate change, but no longer. The chilling prospect of an imminent global glacial melt calls for immediate damage control exercises to stabilise the climate. A good way to begin, perhaps, will be to overhaul the energy and transportation systems which drive the world's fossil fuel economy and, instead, develop low-carbon energy systems based on electronic technologies.

11. What is the prime cause behind the shrinking of ice fields?

- (1) Human activity taking place at these places
- (2) Scientific experiments being done in these area
- (3) Rising temperature due to pollution in atmosphere
- (4) Drying up of rivers which are snow-fed
- (5) None of the above

12. What measure is imminent for saving our mountain glaciers and ice fields?

- (1) Launching a worldwide campaign to save them
- (2) Checking the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- (3) Making people aware of our environment
- (4) Depending less on the environment for livelihood
- (5) None of the above

13. If the polar ice cap melts and the sea level rises

- (1) it will bring more rain
- (2) it will increase the amount of water in the world
- (3) it will submerge low coastal area, thus destroying life and property
- (4) hilly areas will come under water
- (5) excess water will generate diseases and epidemic

14. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) World watch Institute is related to America
- (2) Ice cover of the earth is receding at a fast pace
- (3) Carbon dioxide is the major contributor to global warming
- (4) Snow-fed rivers will always have water in it
- (5) None of the above

15. Give a suitable title to the passage.

- (1) Glacier as a source of water
- (2) Glacier causing floods
- (3) Global warming and human survival
- (4) Glacier and its importance
- (5) Save water

Directions (Q. Nos. 16 - 18) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

16. Thawing

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (1) Diminishing | (2) Receding |
| (3) Evaporating | (4) Melting |
| (5) Breaking | |

17. Scorching

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| (1) Extreme | (2) Mild |
| (3) Uneven | (4) Odd |
| (5) Rapid | |

18. Imminent

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (1) Future | (2) Impending |
| (3) Supposed | (4) Thought |
| (5) Surmise | |

Directions (Q. Nos. 19 and 20) Choose the word which is opposite in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage.

19. Shrunk

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| (1) Developed | (2) Emerged |
| (3) Built | (4) Widened |
| (5) Multiplied | |

20. Steadily

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Gradually | (2) Systematically |
| (3) Slowly | (4) Simply |
| (5) Inconstantly | |

PASSAGE 3

Sunita Rani had walked into my office radiating her usual innocence. The pride of an athlete who had sweated out to bring gold and glory for her country was missing. She did not complain, but just wanted me to help her out so that she could get a night of peaceful sleep. She had not been sleeping for a long time.

That night I could not sleep. A girl, a victim of circumstances and of a system, hounded by the media, crucified by her own countrymen. Sunita stood alone.

The obsession of our media to be the final judge in the doping game smacks of hypocrisy. They did not bother to gather enough material to write about Sunita's training, her diet, her likes and dislikes, her fightback from career-threatening injuries. And yet, they managed to write volumes about Nandrolone, the medicine which she allegedly had taken. The success and the failure in the 'doping game' rest with the Indian sports system. This is a system which conveniently keeps its eyes shut to doping in order to satisfy its hunger for gold medals.



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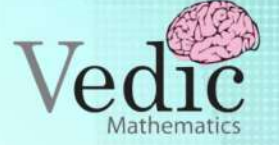
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Doping in sports is a medicine-related issue. There are no specially designed medicines exclusively meant for athletes. The drugs in the banned list for sports are those on the 'only prescribed' list for everyone. These include stimulants, narcotic analgesics, anabolic steroids, diuretics, betablockers and hormones.

In sports, these are abused for performance enhancement. This argument does not allow the sports authorities to frame rules and regulations on the use and control of medication in sports. That job should be left to the medical and health authorities of the country.

While the International Olympic Committee, and the international and national sports federations have overkilled' this issue, the WHO and the national medical and health authorities are silent. The fact is that the policies of the Indian Olympic Association, the national sports bodies and the sports ministry on drug abuse have not found any takers in the health ministry, the Drug Controller of India, the Medical Council of India or in the Indian Medical Association. Till then dope control will continue to remain out of control and more and more cases of drug abuse will keep surfacing. The efforts of sports governing bodies to relentlessly chase athletes, catch and punish them for drug abuse, have only backfired. The stringent penalties for drug abuse have kept the athletes away from counselling. They also avoid going to doctors because of the fear of getting exposed. The result is that doctors have remained mute spectators in the doping game in which the main players are athletes coaches, officials and quacks.

There is no financial support provided for meeting the medical bills of those who suffer from the ill-effects of drugs or any scheme to provide an alternate vocation to the defamed after a life ban. Drug abuse in sports is a medical problem but, ironically, medical and health authorities have no role to play here.

21. Why is the author irked on the media's coverage on doping in Sunita's case?

- (1) Because the author is very close to Sunita
- (2) Because the media has written much without knowing the facts
- (3) Because the media has not shown friendly response in Sunita's case
- (4) Because the media has no expertise to handle such issues
- (5) None of the above

22. Doping issue in sports has been associated with

- (1) the world of politics
- (2) the bargain for medals
- (3) the fitness condition of athletes
- (4) the mental condition of sportspersons
- (5) None of the above

23. Why has a category of drugs been banned for sportspersons?

- (1) Because these drugs do not work in healing ailments
- (2) Because these drugs cause serious side-effects
- (3) Because these drugs cannot be taken without prescription
- (4) Because these drugs are used for excelling in competitions
- (5) None of the above

24. Why is it that the medical and health authorities have no role to play in the case of drug abuse?

- (1) Because sports bodies have handled the affair in a wrong manner
- (2) Because they are inefficient in dealing with it
- (3) Because they are not easily approachable
- (4) Because they are already overburdened with other health problems
- (5) None of the above



25. According to the author, who should be empowered to deal with the cases of drug abuse?

- (1) Sports authorities
- (2) Bureaucrats
- (3) Medical experts
- (4) Athletes and sportspersons themselves
- (5) None of the above

26. The author feels that the athletes can go for counselling or medical advice if

- (1) the medical authorities are friendly
- (2) they get financial support
- (3) they are rewarded for their spirit
- (4) they have little fear for harsh punishment
- (5) they are not opposed in doing so

27. Which of the following is true in context of the passage?

- (1) Sunita was not bothered about the charge of doping on her
- (2) No one supported Sunita during her troublesome period
- (3) The media trial of Sunita's case was perfect
- (4) Drug abuse is a case of medical negligence
- (5) None of the above

28. Why is the author unhappy over the issue of doping?

- (1) Because it is not being handled in a realistic manner
- (2) Because it is a trivial issue which has been hyped
- (3) Because it ruins the career of guilty persons
- (4) Because it has gained undue publicity
- (5) None of the above

29. How can we control dope or drug abuse in sports?

- (1) By charging heavy penalties from offenders
- (2) By making the rules more severe
- (3) By ordering life ban on offenders
- (4) By banning dope test in sports
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. No. 30) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

30. **Hounded**

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (1) Campaigned | (2) Tried |
| (3) Harassed | (4) Observed |
| (5) Chased | |

PASSAGE 4

A recent report in Newsweek says that in American colleges students of Asian origin outperform not only the minority groups students but the majority whites as well. Many of these students must be of Indian origin, and their achievement is something we can be proud of. It is unlikely that these talented youngsters will come back to India, and that is the familiar brain drain problem. However, recent statements by the nation's policy makers indicate that the perception of this issue is changing. "Brain bank" and not "brain drain" is the more appropriate idea, they suggest, since the expertise of Indians abroad is only deposited in other places and not lost.

This may be so, but this brain bank, like most of other banks, is one that primarily serves customers in the neighbourhood. The skills of the Asians now excelling in America's colleges will mainly help the USA. No matter how significant, what non-resident Indians do for India and what their counterparts do for other Asian lands in only a by product.

But it is also necessary to ask, or be reminded, why Indians study more fruitfully when abroad. The Asians whose accomplishments Newsweek records would have probably had a very different fate if they had studied in India. In America they found elbow room, books and facilities not available and not likely to be available here. The need to prove themselves in their new country and the competition of an international

standard they faced there must have cured mental and physical laziness. But other things helping them in America can be obtained here if we achieve a change in social attitudes, especially towards youth.

We need to learn to value individuals and their unique qualities more than conformity and respectability. We need to learn the language of encouragement to add to our skill in flattery. We might also learn to be less liberal with blame and less tight-fisted with appreciation, especially to those showing signs of independence.

31. What is unique about the Asian students as compared to other groups of students in American colleges?

- (1) Asian students are of more mixing nature than other groups of students
- (2) Asian students are the most successful academically
- (3) Asian students get much attention in American colleges than any other group of students
- (4) Asian students get easy availability of work in America than any other group of students
- (5) None of the above

32. What do you understand by the idea of brain bank?

- (1) The restoration of manpower
- (2) The number of manpower
- (3) Wastage of our manpower
- (4) Indians gathering experience abroad
- (5) None of the above

33. In general, the Indian students studying in America

- (1) can solve the brain drain problem because of recent changes in policy
- (2) have a reputation for being excellent in all fields
- (3) will not return to pursue their careers in India
- (4) are behind the concept of brain bank
- (5) are behind the concept of brain drain

34. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) America is facing the brain problem
- (2) Brain bank is a term which has been talked about by American policy-makers
- (3) The students of Asian origin in America include a fair number from India
- (4) Asian students cannot compete with the majority whites in American colleges
- (5) None of the above

35. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Asian students in America will be beneficial for that country
- (2) Asian students are arrogant in their behaviour and find hard to study abroad
- (3) Indians do not study as fruitfully at home as they do abroad
- (4) Indian policy-makers have talked about the concept of brain bank
- (5) None of the above

36. What makes Indian students excel in the area of education abroad as compared to that in their motherland?

- (1) The job opportunities abroad
- (2) The education-related facilities and proper environment
- (3) Their promise to the family members
- (4) The cost incurred on getting their education abroad
- (5) None of the above

37. What is the main concern of the author behind writing this passage?

- (1) Stopping Indians from studying abroad
- (2) Creating an excellent atmosphere for education in India
- (3) Providing job to students educated abroad
- (4) Advocating for American education
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 38 - 40) Choose the word which is same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

38. Perception

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| (1) Implication | (2) Graph |
| (3) Dimension | (4) Insight |
| (5) Ramification | |

39. Expertise

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) Basics | (2) Demand |
| (3) Technique | (4) Speciality |
| (5) Skill | |

40. Tight – fisted

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (1) Angry | (2) Strict |
| (3) Miserly | (4) Occupied |
| (5) Burdened | |

PASSAGE 5

Opportunities seldom knock at one's door twice. It is said that the person who recognizes an opportunity when he sees one, truly emerges the winner. There are umpteen occasions in one's life, when only despair and frustration is seen. Life seems bleak, without purpose and meaningless. This is the real time to hold on, to dangle frantically on to the thin, greasy and slippery thread called "hope" and carefully climb back the rugged mountain called "life". Get back into action, bounce back to life, shed your inhibitions, fears, boredom and self-pity and transform yourself to a more vibrant and enthusiastic person whom all envy.

All this may no doubt sound wonderful to read, but is extremely difficult to practice. However, the urge to pull on should come from within oneself. The biggest teacher is one's own self and the best experience comes from one's own mistakes. He who commits the same mistake twice is a fool and he who learns from

his mistakes is wise. The aggressive environment that we are a part of demands that one should give in more than his best to succeed in any field. For this success, it is imperative that one does not brood over opportunities lost and previously committed blunders, but search for new opportunities and get on with life.

A cheerful, positive attitude can indeed do wonders to one's personality. Half your problems are solved by having that fantastic positive attitude to any predicament. The best thing is that attitude is infectious and your having a positive attitude will also result in the other interacting with you catch on this "infection", resulting in amazing consequences. There is a wonderful proverb in English which says, "Remember when everything seems lost, the future remains". Golden words, indeed, inspiring enough to revive the most depressed of persons. Hope is undoubtedly what the world lives on and in the worst of circumstances, hope provides the best kind of succour. To lose hope is to lose the war even before it has begun.

41. What happens to a person who ignores an opportunity?

- (1) He may get a golden opportunity later on
- (2) He has no sense to respect an opportunity
- (3) He is considered a bold person
- (4) His life becomes monotonous
- (5) None of the above

42. How can a person overcome despair and anxiety filled in his life?

- (1) By turning to meditation
- (2) By developing a helping attitude towards others
- (3) By developing an optimistic attitude
- (4) By comparing his misery with others
- (5) None of the above

43. Why has the author called 'hope' a thin, greasy and slippery thread and 'life' a rugged mountain?

- (1) Hope is meaningless in a life which is full of despair
- (2) Despair and frustration make life very difficult and a person with positive attitude can make it easy even if he gets a ray of hope, though with much difficulty
- (3) A little amount of hope cannot give sense to a life which is full of hurdles
- (4) Life laden with burdens cannot be enjoyed with meagre hope
- (5) None of the above

44. Merely repenting over past mistakes

- (1) makes one extra cautious in life
- (2) makes one bold and courageous
- (3) makes one selective in terms of opportunities
- (4) makes one unsuccessful in life
- (5) makes one stubborn

45. What is the message behind the proverb "Remember, when everything seems lost, the future remains"?

- (1) There is no end to failure in life
- (2) Life without failure is futile
- (3) Hurdles may be before us at present but success cannot be ruled out in future
- (4) Success always comes late in life
- (5) None of the above

46. Which of the following is true in context of the passage?

- (1) Life becomes monotonous without failure
- (2) A person who learns from his own mistakes is sensible
- (3) There is plethora of opportunities which come at our doorstep
- (4) We should learn from other's mistakes
- (5) None of the above

47. Which of the following is false in context of the passage?

- (1) We should succumb to failure in life
- (2) Even if our present is flop, future may be get success
- (3) Hope gives the sense of life
- (4) There is no life where there is no hope
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 48 - 50) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

48. Umpteen

- (1) Precious
- (2) Special
- (3) Numerous
- (4) Distinct
- (5) Certain

49. Dangle

- (1) Hang
- (2) Balance
- (3) Challenge
- (4) Grip
- (5) Proceed

50. Succour

- (1) Environment
- (2) Medicine
- (3) Alternate
- (4) Direction
- (5) Help

PASSAGE 6

Monopolies are bad in national politics and worse in international politics. The unipolar world led by the US is an example of political monopoly. In the language of history and politics, monopolies are discussed in terms of balance of power. What we have today is an imbalance of power. The US-led war against Iraq needs to be seen in the context of this imbalance. There has been much talk about the need for a multipolar world as an ideal solution to the existing anarchy in the international arena. The US and UK combine have been considered to be the perpetrators of the war. They disregarded global

public opinion and have gone outside the mandate of the United Nations. This is an indication of US considering itself the only superpower. Its consideration may be justified because it has all pervading might and also the necessary will. Its might is in two domains: one military, and the other, economic. On every issue of any importance that confronts foreign policy-making of any country, US interests become vital. This omnipresence of the US makes it different from any other country. Some political observers argue that this is temporary that the Russians will be back that the Germans, Japanese, Europeans are coming that China is not far away. In short, we occupy a period of metamorphosis from a bipolar to a multipolar world, a period that may constitute a unipolar moment but that phase may be over shortly. When will this unipolar moment be over? None has the answer to this question. Most observers view US as somewhere between primacy and dominance, depending on the issue. The main question is how to deal with hegemony, primacy or dominance. In dealing with a big power, a smaller power must choose either balancing or bandwagoning or hiding. In a unipolar world, the general trend of foreign policy will be to bandwagon. Middle powers will need to bandwagon less than small powers and on particular issues may be able to balance or hide.

51. For initiating the war, the author of the passage

- (1) appreciates the joint action of the US and the UK
- (2) considers the war as unjustified and blames the US and the UK
- (3) thinks that the United Nations should have admired the US and the UK
- (4) blames the global public opinion
- (5) does not hold any specific viewpoint

52. According to the author, in dealing with superpowers. what course do small powers generally adopt?

- (1) They counter effectively

- (2) They try to balance
- (3) They tactfully avoid confrontation
- (4) They do not succumb to any pressure
- (5) None of the above

53. According to the author, the world is heading towards

- (1) multipolarity from unipolarity
- (2) unipolarity from bipolarity
- (3) multipolarity from bipolarity
- (4) bipolarity from multipolarity
- (5) not mentioned in the passage

54. What according to the passage, has made US a superpower?

- (1) Its big brotherly attitude towards other countries
- (2) Its global reach, ambition and might
- (3) Its tactful alignment with UK
- (4) Its war against Iraq for a noble cause
- (5) None of the above

55. The author has laid reasonable emphasis on which of the following?

- A. US-UK combine war against Iraqis
 - B. The global power balancing amongst various nations
 - C. The agonies of war suffered by the common people
- (1) Only A
 - (2) Only B
 - (3) Only C
 - (4) A and B
 - (5) B and C

56. Which of the following statements is TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (1) The world is heading towards unipolarity
- (2) The multipolarity to unipolarity transition is certain
- (3) The unipolarity phase is likely to be short-lived
- (4) Primacy and dominance are seldom exhibited by the US
- (5) None of the above

57. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

The author thinks that the US-UK combine should be blamed because they have

- A. converted the world into a bipolar sphere
- B. disregarded global public opinion against war
- C. downgraded the esteemed United Nations

- (1) All the three
- (2) A and B
- (3) A and B
- (4) B and C
- (5) None of these

58. "Unipolar world" as used in the passage can be best explained by which of the following?

- (1) The world without any independent country and governed by only one superpower
- (2) Existence of only one superpower with all other countries either bandwagoning or hiding
- (3) The world without any geographic or political boundaries
- (4) The unilateral governance with anarchy
- (5) None of the above

59. Why do US interests assume importance in deciding foreign policies of any other country?

- (1) US is strong militarily and economically
- (2) It is hegemonistic and confronts all other small powers
- (3) It expects others to wag tails before it
- (4) Other countries are in a multipolar state
- (5) None of the above

60. What is the author's view about middle powers dealing with big powers?

- (1) They can balance, hide or bandwagon, depending upon the issues
- (2) They can't afford to confront big powers as they might perish
- (3) They must always shy away from big powers to protect themselves
- (4) They would like neither to bandwagon nor hide
- (5) None of the above

PASSAGE 7

The subject "Good Governance" is both topical and timely. It is an axiom of political science that a State comes into being for life but it exists for good life. The duty of the state is not only to protect life and liberty but goes further, to enable the people to live in a measure of physical and mental comfort.

Democracy is a government by the citizens themselves. The people should realise that they are responsible for choosing the right and proper persons to represent them in national affairs. In colonial administration the government was different from the people. Those governments ruled but without the consent and concurrence of the people. This old concept still persists in the masses today. They do not realise that the general election is the occasion for them to choose a government for themselves. On the contrary, the masses feel that the franchise is a patronage to be conferred on their kith and kin, or the local candidate, or one of their caste and religious fraternity.

In mature democracies a person who changes his party affiliation or crosses the floor seldom gets re-elected by the electorate. They do not trust him to stand firm by the policies and programmes proposed by him. In India a person who was in the Congress Government and immediately thereafter in the Janata Government and then in Chandrashekhar Government was re-elected and came once again into the Congress Government. The electorate votes for a criminal or a corrupt candidate, and bemoans that the country has a bad government. The electorate does not realise that even as it contributes to its own household expenditure, it has to contribute to the country's

governance. It is easily misled by the unscrupulous promises of political parties of free food, free clothes, free electricity, free everything. Even enlightened

people plead for tax concessions, subsidies and incentives oblivious of the fact that they are met by borrowings which in turn impose burdens indirectly on themselves.

Besides, in a true democracy, the people voluntarily observe the laws, rules and regulations as they are forged by themselves in the interest of good governance. It is only because 90% of the people abide by the laws and 10% transgress them that the state is able to maintain order and harmony. If the situation were reversed with 90% transgressing the law and 10% abiding by it, there can be no organised society, no peace and harmony. Some of the advanced countries, notably Switzerland, have perhaps the highest degree of compliance. A mere board stating that the road is closed will be complied with by almost 100% of the people.

61. Which of the following is supposed to be the most relevant duty of the state?

- (1) To ensure sovereignty of the region
- (2) To ensure prosperity of the region
- (3) To look after the welfare of its people
- (4) To develop better terms with other nations
- (5) None of the above

62. What is the basic difference between democracy and colonial rule?

- (1) In a democracy people's will prevails whereas in colonial rule ruler's will prevails
- (2) Democracy is a rule by different parties whereas colonial rule is a single-party rule
- (3) Democracy can be opposed by the people but such is not the case with colonial rule
- (4) A colonial rule can be converted into a democracy but the same cannot happen with a democracy
- (5) None of the above

63. If the people want to have a responsible government in a democracy

- (1) they must call for free and fair elections
- (2) they should take charge of the elections
- (3) they should elect educated and experienced representatives
- (4) they should look for single-party rule
- (5) they should elect desirable candidates

64. Why does a person changing his party find it hard to get re-elected in mature democracies?

- (1) Because political parties suspect his fidelity
- (2) Because he loses his image in the political circle
- (3) Because his eligibility for fighting elections gets questioned
- (4) Because he has to depend upon the stand of his new party
- (5) None of the above

65. In a country like India who is mainly responsible for good or bad governance?

- (1) The system of electing our representatives
- (2) The political parties
- (3) The voters
- (4) The political party in power
- (5) None of the above

66. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) Good governance is related to the welfare of the people
- (2) We have a mature democracy in India
- (3) The leaders who change parties faces hurdle in getting re-elected in our country
- (4) All of the above
- (5) None of the above

67. With which stream does the author seem to be related?

- (1) Sociology
- (2) History
- (3) Political Science
- (4) Constitution of India
- (5) None of these

Directions (Q. Nos. 68 - 70) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

68. Concurrence

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (1) Satisfaction | (2) Agreement |
| (3) Participation | (4) Loyalty |
| (5) Dependence | |

69. Fraternity

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (1) Society | (2) Groups |
| (3) Background | (4) Ethnicity |
| (5) Brotherhood | |

70. Voluntarily

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| (1) Basically | (2) Generally |
| (3) Systematically | (4) Willingly |
| (5) Unitedly | |

PASSAGE 8

In the years one picked one's way through the bureaucratic maze, one discovered what is a major and most heartening aspect of the development work being done in the social sector the work done by a number of non-profit organisations (NPOs). These NPOs brought to the work they did a sense of dedication, of commitment, and an enthusiasm fuelled by their determination to improve the conditions of their fellow citizens in whichever field they were working.

Some started schools and colleges, some centres of various crafts and skills, others set up centres for the care of nursing others, or for the protection and well-being of the girl child and numerous other aspects of social development. It was not that the government isn't doing anything in these fields. There are State-run organisations doing some work, and some of those who work in them do have a sense of purpose and dedication. But, sadly, in general the people who

man such organisations are indifferent, even callous and perfunctory in their work.

Inspection is rare, which means they can go on working in the slovenly manner they have become used to and worse still, those who are supposed to inspect their work sit in offices and depend on reports, on the basis of which they formulate their own reports, most of which are flights of fancy rather than factual.

Initially, there was a certain wariness, if not suspicion, about what these NPOs were doing. But as the years passed and it was apparent they were not agents of a foreign power or terrorists in disguise but simply people who wanted to help others, they received support in varying degrees from the ministries and departments involved with the work they were doing. In fact, an apex body was set up by the ministry of rural development to help these voluntary agencies, which did not work for profit but only to help the less fortunate.

But, as is usual with government, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing, or does something else anyway. A determined effort is being made, believe it or not, to make these voluntary agencies, which do not work for profit, pay income tax. That most parasitical of organisations, the Planning Commission, has spawned an 'advisory group' headed by a Professor Shome, which has, like most such groups put together a report based on the ridiculous notion that if you make it fat enough, either no one will read it, or they will read only what you want them to, and you will have spent a nice long time at government expense producing this large amount of paper.

If this had been the usual kind of advisory group report it would not have merited notice. Unfortunately, it deals with a topic which makes it nasty as it is verbose. The report argues, if one

dredges out anything like coherence from its depths, that there are two kinds of non-profit organisations. If an NPO gets over 90% of its funds from donations, it's called a donative NPO. If it gets less from donations, it should be taxed like any other association of persons.

So, if an NPO runs a school where its revenues from, say, fees are more than 10% it has to pay tax. This advisory group has justified this with a piece of astonishing casuistry. Now, many schools run by NPOs get government grants. If this stupid recommendation of the advisory committee were to be accepted, the NPOs would make sure their revenues from other sources would never cross 10%. They would demand all the rest from government, since, if they raised anything more, the government would take it away by way of tax.

71. What is the basic objective of the NPOs?

- (1) To coordinate with the government departments working in the area of social development
- (2) To ensure the protection of fundamental rights of ordinary people
- (3) To build trust and confidence among the people regarding their functioning
- (4) To create a just atmosphere in the country
- (5) None of the above

72. What is the problem with the government institutions working in the field of social development?

- (1) Their staff are not well-equipped to do the task
- (2) The personnel handling the affairs are not hospitable and dedicated in their duty
- (3) They constantly face the paucity of funds
- (4) Their staff lack proper training and encouragement
- (5) None of the above

73. Why has it been said that most of the inspection reports are flights of fancy rather than factual?

- (1) Because it is written like a fiction
- (2) Because it lacks transparency

- (3) Because it does not contain ground realities
- (4) Because fact and fancy are opposite to each other
- (5) None of the above

74. How can we ensure sincerity and responsibility among people who handle government organisations working in the area of social development?

- (1) By rewarding them for their good work
- (2) By providing them with adequate training
- (3) By providing them with proper infrastructure
- (4) By punishing them for their negligence
- (5) None of the above

75. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) Government-run social development organisations are more effective than the NPOs
- (2) NPOs do not look for monetary gain while serving the people
- (3) NPOs have been brought in the tax net recently
- (4) Government has so far provided no help to the NPOs
- (5) None of the above

76. What do you mean by the expression "as is usual with the government the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing"?

- (1) The functioning of the government is a confidential matter
- (2) There is no mutual trust between two different government organisations
- (3) The government usually has little idea about what is going on in its own circle
- (4) The government has become a non-functional body
- (5) None of the above

77. Which of the following seems to be the concern of the author?

- (1) It is unfair to tax the NPOs as it will mean punishing development
- (2) NPOs should be encouraged to run schools

- (3) Government organisations in the field of social development should be closed
(4) Creating advisory groups is a wastage of money and time of the government
(5) None of the above

78. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Voluminous reports prepared by committees are read by none
(2) NPOs essentially are there for the service of people
(3) At the beginning people were little confused regarding the role of the NPOS
(4) Many NPOs get financial aid from the government in carrying out their work
(5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos - 79 and 80) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

79. Fancy

- (1) Wit (2) Suspense
(3) Infatuation (4) Bewildering
(5) Imagination

80. Spawned

- (1) Spread (2) Declared
(3) Conceptualised (4) Produced
(5) Supported

PASSAGE 9

The face of the average young Kashmiri that you see on television is an angry one. But what is life really like for a persons who has grown up during a period when the gun has ruled and curfew has been a daily routine? Under its Voilence Mitigation and. Amelioration Project, Oxfam (India) Trust recently produced a rather unusual report that documents the

opinions of nearly 200 young Kashmiris. The primary research was conducted by a group of young Kashmiris familiar with the situation in the State.

Although, the report, "The impact of violence on the student community in Kashmir", does not claim to be either empirical or statistically significant, what it does convey through its qualitative material is the mood of the college going person in Kashmir. Reports such as this are often dismissed because they lack academic rigour and also openly state their political bias.

Yet, it is inconceivable that a group of young Kashmiris could produce a report without articulating their views on the political situation in their State. In this report, that view is stated upfront, the reader can agree or disagree but the substance lies in the narratives and the information on what the young people think and what they experience.

In a city such as Mumbai, for instance, college students are busy at this time of the year trying for admission, shopping around for books, clothes and music, going to the movies restaurants or just hanging around the roadside tea stalls. Such a scene would be unheard of in Kashmir, although in the last six months things could have changed.

The report records how the 13 long years, when the State was convulsed in violent conflict, took their toll on the life and academic performance of thousands of students. A majority of colleges could not function normally. Curfew, bandhs and continuous violence meant that students did not know from one day to the next whether they would get to college. Degrees were awarded even though students had not attended college. Also, many educational institutions were burnt down at the height of the troubles. Others were occupied by security forces and thus could not be used.

Even in the colleges that continued to function, there was little by way of extra-curricular activities. And student unions were not permitted. Thus, what was associated with "normal" college and university life in India was totally absent in Kashmir over these last 13 years.

81. What has deprived the Kashmiri students from leading a normal routine?

- (1) Inappropriate employment opportunities
- (2) Continuous spate of anarchy and bloodshed
- (3) Political vacuum in the state
- (4) Absence of student politics in the state
- (5) None of the above

82. The report, "The impact of violence on the student community in Kashmir" reflects

- (1) the troubled state of mind of the students
- (2) the status of education in Kashmir
- (3) the political inability and helplessness
- (4) decreasing education rate there
- (5) None of the above

83. What will make such reports as the one on the impact of violence on the student community in Kashmir, widely acceptable?

- (1) More research work and people's opinion being involved
- (2) Involvement of more academic persons and scholars
- (3) They should be academically disciplined and politically fair
- (4) Transparent mechanism applied while preparing the report
- (5) None of the above

84. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) Kashmiri students are leading a normal life amidst unfavourable circumstances
- (2) Mumbai students are more mature than the Kashmiri students

(3) The research group which gave its report on the impact of violence on the student community in Kashmir was unaware of the ground realities there

(4) Kashmiri students are migrating to Mumbai for education

(5) None of the above

85. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Academic scenario in Kashmir has always remained in a grim state
- (2) Political groups of students cannot be found in Kashmir
- (3) Violence has taken its toll on education in Kashmir
- (4) Kashmiri students are deprived of normal college life
- (5) None of the above

86. What does the author want to highlight through this passage?

- (1) Never-ending violence in Kashmir
- (2) Unemployment in Kashmir
- (3) Political strengthening of Kashmiri students
- (4) Plight and agony of Kashmiri students
- (5) Alternative education for Kashmiri students

87. Which of the following has not been considered in the making of the report on the impact of violence on the student community in Kashmir?

- (1) Political scenario in the state
- (2) Feeling and experience of the college students
- (3) The achievements of college students of Mumbai
- (4) Disruption in the functioning of colleges in the state
- (5) All of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 88 - 90) Choose the word which is same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

88. Empirical

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (1) Evident | (2) Practical |
| (3) Advanced | (4) Just |
| (5) Vast | |

89. Rigour

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| (1) Discipline | (2) Comment |
| (3) Expertise | (4) Concern |
| (5) Curiosity | |

90. Articulating

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (1) Pondering | (2) Weighing |
| (3) Responding | (4) Utilising |
| (5) Expressing | |

PASSAGE 10

Nearly 6000 years ago, man took a giant step forward in his evolution on this earth when, giving up a nomadic type of life, he took to agriculture. This memorable event happened in certain river valleys of India, China, Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) and Egypt. The reason was that the conditions in these areas were favourable for the cultivation of grains like wheat, rice etc because of plenty of rich soil and water. Consequently, the farmer was able to produce more grains than he required for his needs. This helped in the development of settled cooperative living and villages appeared where some people could make a living using some specialised skills or take up other jobs useful to the society instead of tilling the soil.

As time passed more and more families started living together for the sake of security against barbarians and wild animals. They built big buildings and cities sprang up. Such developments took place in many parts of the world where conditions were suitable for

agriculture, trade and commerce. Since it was not hard to make a good living, men had spare time for the development of arts and crafts and engage in other activities which characterize a cultured life.

The ancient civilisations, though quite far removed from each other, did not develop in complete isolation. There was some trade and commerce accompanied at times by sharing of knowledge. It was not uncommon to have from time to time small or big wars and mass exodus of people for greener Pastures. By 1000 BC, with considerable intermingling of traces, several well-developed and prosperous civilisations had come into existence. Their borders of course were not well defined but kept on shifting due to wars. Here we shall be concerned essentially with some of the fundamental contributions of the ancient Indian and Greek civilisations to human knowledge. One may like to know why these two could make more important and enduring contributions than other civilisations. The answer briefly is that by and large both in India and Greece conditions for free, sober and intelligent thought were an integral part of the social structure. Furthermore, the philosophers were highly respected and they could without a care.

Follow knowledge like a sinking star

Beyond the utmost bound of human thought.

To begin with, the philosophical developments in the two civilisations started along similar lines, with attempts to answer some basic questions like. Who am I? How was the world created? Is there life after death? And so on. This is not surprising since the forefathers of the Indo-Aryans and the Greeks lived together in Central Asia before mass migration. But in due course, around 500 BC, the effects of different environments and some intermixing with other races began to have their effect and change in emphasis in the pursuit of knowledge was noticeable. The Greeks, because of their rugged surroundings and contacts with other seafaring people in trade and commerce,

had to be practical. They turned more and more to the study and understanding of the outer world. So successful were they in their endeavour and so basic were their contributions that it is now quite generally accepted that the entire modern intellectual education of the West, both philosophical and scientific, originates from the Greeks. The Indo-Aryans, on the other hand, once they had settled down comfortably in different parts of India did not have to face many challenges from the outside world. Consequently, they turned more and more towards religion and the study of man's inner world. The degree of success and the mastery they achieved is best summed up by Schopenhauer, a German philosopher. Commenting about Upanishidic knowledge, he remarked, "Thinking was finished on the banks of river Ganges."

91. Which step of man marks the end of his life as wanderers on this earth?

- (1) His taking up of jobs which were useful to the society
- (2) His shift towards agricultural activities
- (3) Development of the sense of brotherhood
- (4) Evolution of trade and commerce
- (5) None of the above

92. What led to the development of farming in India, China, Mesopotamia and Iraq?

- (1) Curiosity for producing grains among the people in these areas
- (2) Early knowledge of agriculture among the people in these areas
- (3) Proper climate for agriculture
- (4) Vast area was available
- (5) None of the above

93. Development of villages became easy because

- (1) people gave up agriculture and took to alternate jobs
- (2) a sense of security led people to live in units like villages

- (3) people were fed up of nomadic lifestyle
- (4) people got easy lifestyle in such a condition
- (5) None of the above

94. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) Agriculture, trade and commerce marked the development of the society
- (2) Living together made people brave enough to kill the wild animals
- (3) Man's nomadic lifestyle gave birth to agriculture
- (4) Man took up to nomadic lifestyle nearly 6000 years from now
- (5) None of the above

95. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Concern for security was one of the reasons which made families live together
- (2) Fertile lands supported agriculture in India, China, Mesopotamia and Egypt
- (3) Ancient civilisations developed without having any support from one another
- (4) Trade and commerce supported the cause of development
- (5) None of the above

96. Why did the established civilisations have no fixed places or properly demarcated borders?

- (1) Because several civilisations established themselves close to each other
- (2) Because of the changing nature of the civilisations
- (3) Because of the merging of smaller civilisations into bigger ones
- (4) Because of wars and migration of people to different areas
- (5) None of the above

97. What led the Greeks to expand their knowledge of the outer world?

- (1) Their conquest of various countries
- (2) Their access to the other countries of the world via sea route
- (3) Their social recognition in foreign countries
- (4) Their constant fighting with other countries
- (5) None of the above

98. The Indo-Aryans with a religious bent of mind turned to the study of man's inner world because

- (1) they were at peace in their home and having little interference from the outside world
- (2) they never reflected aggression even if challenged by other countries
- (3) the study of the outer world was assigned to the Greeks
- (4) they had no idea of the outer world
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 99 and 100) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

99. Exodus

- (1) Departure
- (2) Trial
- (3) Awareness
- (4) Sensitivity
- (5) Fleet

100. Intermingling

- (1) Consideration
- (2) Sharing
- (3) Mixing
- (4) Connectivity
- (5) Justification

PASSAGE 11

The Indian economy seems to be doing fairly well despite the drought and the rather gloomy world economic situation. Important international credit rating agencies like Moody's and even the Geneva-based World Economic Forum are taking note of this

good performance by upgrading India's competitive index.

But who should take the credit for these achievements? Surely, the government has not been very proactive or encouraging. At the most, it has only been benign and non-interfering as in the software and the telecommunications sectors. At worst, some economic policies have acted as deterrent to the smooth flow of investment from home and abroad to crucial areas of the economy. The government could have made a huge difference through its active participation and investment in the social sector. But intervention in the social sector has been lacklustre since 1991. There has not been any significant increase in investment in any of the areas critical for human development. Consequently, the achievements are still patchy and need improvement. For instance, India still has a long way to go in bringing about gender equality or reducing sharply infant and maternal mortality rates.

In countries like China, Jamaica and Sri Lanka, public intervention has produced positive results in area of health and education and has resulted in increasing longevity and improved HDI. Certainly, democracy and a free press have helped India in many ways. The presence of democratic values in India has been given the credit by the Human Development Report 2002, for preventing famines. But whether it has worked in bringing about a higher rate of economic growth and equity is not so certain.

We have members of Parliament who have criminal records and many who, through sheer money power, are able to buy votes. The government cannot be credited with giving greater economic freedom to the people by giving employment to all either. Nor has it been able to achieve a high level of governance by having in place a network of checks and balances. Basically, it seems to be the invisible hand that is responsible for things going well and the economy

pushing ahead in certain areas. Adam Smith argued in his *Wealth of Nations* (1776) that an individual "who intends only his own gain is led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention". If individuals are pursuing their own interests, they will end up doing good for the interests of society and increase the general welfare of the people as there is an unseen process of coordination that ensures the consistency of individual plans in a decentralised market economy. But there is also the 'invisible foot' at play. According to economist Paul Streeton, it is the principle of social impoverishment through competitive, short-term, self-interested political action by pressure groups that attempt to frustrate Adam Smith's invisible hand by rent-seeking and directly unproductive profit-seeking activities. The government has to find ways of preventing the invisible foot from trampling on and destroying the good work of the invisible hand.

101. Moody's and the World Economic Forum have upgraded India's competitive index

- (1) to approve the performance of the Indian economy
- (2) to question the credentials of the Indian economy
- (3) to compare the Indian economy with the world economy
- (4) to guide the world economy in the right direction
- (5) to question the performance of the world economy

102. What makes the performance of Indian economy more noteworthy?

- (1) Its challenge to the world economy
- (2) Its fair performance amidst odd conditions
- (3) Its detachment with the world economy
- (4) Its image before the international credit rating agencies
- (5) None of the above

103. Who can be given the credit behind India's good economic performance?

- (1) The government
- (2) The non-government organisations

- (3) The entrepreneurs
- (4) The credit rating agencies
- (5) Can't say

104. How can gender equality be achieved or infant and maternal mortality rates reduced in India?

- (1) By making the people aware of these issues
- (2) By increasing the rate of literacy
- (3) By reducing the rate of poverty
- (4) By implementing schemes and investing in the social sector
- (5) None of the above

105. What has been the role of the government in the software and the telecom sectors?

- (1) Encouraging and supportive role through policies
- (2) Proactive role
- (3) Neutral role and creating no obstacles
- (4) Negative role
- (5) None of the above

106. How does the theory of invisible hand benefit the society?

- (1) A person working for his personal benefit contributes to the society as well because he involves others also in the process and they also get their share
- (2) It teaches the people in general to perform or else they may perish
- (3) It promotes work culture in the society without any financial demand
- (4) It teaches the people to stand together in difficult circumstances
- (5) None of the above

107. What does the author want to convey through this passage?

- (1) We should respect the democratic values
- (2) Government should look positively into the society and economic issues
- (3) We should learn lessons from countries like China, Jamaica and Sri Lanka
- (4) We should not rely on the theory of invisible hand

(5) None of the above

108. Which of the following is false in context of the passage?

- (1) Before 1991, government was actively involved with the social sector
- (2) The issue of gender equality is still haunting India
- (3) The Indian economy has performed well in a bright world economic situation
- (4) Free media has done good job in India
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 109 and 110) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

109. Benign

- (1) Rewarding
- (2) Supportive
- (3) Campaigning
- (4) Instrumental
- (5) Kind

110. Sheer

- (1) Complete
- (2) Black
- (3) Unaccounted
- (4) Utilising
- (5) Influential

PASSAGE 12

In any lively democracy the press and the politician have a healthy mutual need. When politicians, political parties and governments want to be heard they go in search of the press, among other vital ingredients. With India's highly politicized reading public and a cynical middle class, unless there is a political twist given to a speech, an iftar party or a meeting on the front page, the newspaper would fold up or at least so the media believes. If a political party is particularly idle it will use a front page twist to raise a storm in Parliament sometimes without bothering to ascertain the facts. All this is accepted as fair game as long as not much harm is done. However, the very

(sine qua non) of any story claiming to be news rather than views has to be the unadulterated truth. Anything short of verified truth can only be presented as opinion, speculation or allegation. Without this, the edifice of credibility that a free press is accorded in a democracy would crumble.

In dictatorships or controlled democracies the press must write the truth as the ruling establishment wishes it to be written. The big Lie comes from on high. The press can then rightly claim that their freedom is curtailed and disclaim responsibility for presenting the truth. However, in a democracy in which the press has complete freedom to write about anything it pleases, the responsibility for presenting the truth and nothing but the truth devolves on the media.

A journalist being human and fallible is subject to the same laws and rights as any other citizen. There is no right given to him that overrides the rights of other individuals and no law he need not bow before no matter what the motivation for his story. It is only at the time of according punishment to a lawbreaker that the judge can consider the circumstances under which the crime was committed, but a journalist cannot quote public interest to justify breaking a law. Even a person from a law enforcement agency has the right to drive through a red light only if he is on an authorised mission to chase a suspected criminal.

It is also important to remember that freedom of expression is a right given by the Constitution as much to the individual as it is to the press. The right of the press to write about persons is no less than the right of those persons to give their version to the same public through whatever means there are at their disposals, including through the press. It is for the press to respect that right as a natural corollary of its own right. Just as a reporter is unhappy if the proprietor is unhappy, if the ruling establishment curtails the freedom of the press, the ordinary citizen, be he the reader or the subject matter of a story in the media, has the right to uncurtailed and undiluted

expression of his version and view of events. If this two-way process did not exist and the press claimed the unilateral right to freedom of expression in the garb of press freedom, it would amount to the dictatorship of the press.

In the age of media trials and sensationalism it is even more important that those in the media who genuinely believe that democratic and civil rights take priority over profits remember their responsibility to adhere to the truth, the law and specified journalistic ethics.

111. What makes the political leaders get closer to the media?

- (1) To obtain information about their adversaries
- (2) To voice their opinion on different matters in public and gain publicity
- (3) To settle political scores
- (4) To interfere with the functioning of the media
- (5) None of the above

112. Why is it that a political twist given to a speech, iftar party or a meeting is published on the front page of a newspaper?

- (1) Because politics has crept into every area of human activity
- (2) Because of growing competition among newspapers to make political issues their first priority
- (3) Because of the hold of political leader on the masses
- (4) Because the reader has little interest in other issues
- (5) None of the above

113. What do you mean by the expression sine qua non as used in the passage?

- (1) Essential condition
- (2) Root of information
- (3) Place of origin
- (4) After-effect
- (5) None of these

114. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) A journalist has got more powers regarding the right to information than an ordinary citizen
- (2) A journalist has the authority to break the law only in matters of public interest
- (3) Press is not as free in a dictatorship as in a democracy
- (4) Freedom of expression is only meant for the press and not for people in general
- (5) None of the above

115. How can the credibility of a free press in a democratic setup be ensured?

- (1) By the press providing information on aspects other than mere political issues
- (2) By publishing human interest stories
- (3) By giving equal space to every political party
- (4) By exposing corruption and malpractices prevalent in the system
- (5) None of the above

116. "Even a person from a law enforcement agency has the right to drive through a red light only if he is on an authorised mission to chase a suspected criminal." This means

- (1) law can only permit one to break the law
- (2) no one is above law and all are equal on the parameters of law
- (3) law always takes its own course
- (4) only a person from a law enforcement agency has the right to break the law
- (5) one can break the law if situation demands

117. Which of the following is false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Politicians approach the press to be heard
- (2) Any news story has to be factual
- (3) Press is a free institution whether in a democracy or in a dictatorship
- (4) Any item published without having truth in it may be considered as views and not news

(5) None of the above

118. What is the main theme of the passage?

- (1) Responsibilities of a free media
- (2) Media and politics
- (3) Media and sensationalism
- (4) Abuse of freedom of expression
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 119 and 120) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

119. Ascertain

- (1) Examine
- (2) Scrutinise
- (3) Discover
- (4) Approve
- (5) Dismantle

120. Crumble

- (1) Buckle
- (2) Ruin
- (3) Jolt
- (4) Surrender
- (5) Collapse

PASSAGE 13

More and more people continue to succumb to the cold wave. Living human beings are freezing into lifeless statistics. It is anybody's guess what the toll will be by the time the season ends. But who cares? Given the victims the poor who survive precariously at the best of times why should anyone care? If not by cold today, they will die tomorrow by heat or hunger. Barring a few exceptions, the victims of communal riots too belong to the same socio-economic bracket. It is citizens from the same segment, more or less, who lay down their lives to defend the country.

It is time we reckoned the politics of death. For us today, only deaths due to cross-border terrorism matter. We are callously apathetic to deaths resulting from State apathy that outnumber by far the victims

of terrorism. Surely, not a single Indian life should be lost to terrorists; and terrorism must be not only 'crushed' but also rooted out. At the root of the culture of terrorism is the tacit assumption that human life is a commodity to be played with in a political game. Such an assumption is bad enough in politics. It is utterly repugnant in religion.

There can be absolutely no religious justification for terrorism of any kind. The concept of jihad is irreligious non-sense. The basic spiritual insight is that human life not some ideology or religious establishment is the ultimate value. It must not only be defended but also cherished, enriched and celebrated at all costs. Terrorism is, hence, an outright insult to the essence of religion, and it needs to be eradicated.

But, does right to life entitle citizens to protection only from terrorists? Is death by terrorism worse than slow and prolonged death due to starvation or cold? The moral high ground to fight terrorism must be derived from an uncompromising commitment to protect life from every threat that imperils it. A culture of mindless and murderous aggression, that sacrifices citizens for political ends, does not mix well with postures of indignation against terrorism.

That is not all. Deaths due to cold or starvation should be deemed a darker blot on the State than the toll of terrorism. They are predictable and preventable. We know who are the enemies and where the victims are. We have the resources required to avert these tragedies. But nothing is done and the toll continues to rise. That leaves us with only one inference we have no intrinsic value for human life unless it is embellished by caste or class labels. That is why five Dalits in Jhajjar can be brutally ill treated and lynched, allegedly for refusing to bribe policemen, and this barbarity can be dressed up in communal costumes. The same message is writ large over the fate of Bapi Sen, the 37 year old Kolkata policeman beaten to

death by his own colleagues for doing his duty on New year's eve. For the same reason, locks remain intact on godowns even as people starve and die, and experts busy themselves debating whether they died of famine or malnutrition.

121. "Living human beings are freezing into lifeless statistics" means

- (1) temperature recorded below living conditions
- (2) anyone can die of cold
- (3) a large number of living people are dying of cold
- (4) people dying of cold cannot be counted
- (5) cold freezes the body

122. Why is it that for us only deaths due to cross-border terrorism matter today?

- (1) Because it draws international attention
- (2) Because it exposes the nefarious design of our enemy countries
- (3) Because they are more in numbers than any other forms of death
- (4) Because it supports the campaign against terrorism
- (5) None of the above

123. What is the stand of the author on terrorism?

- (1) He supports terrorism for noble causes
- (2) He is against only mixing terrorism with religion
- (3) He views terrorism to be not as severe enemy of mankind as today's politics
- (4) He is against terrorism
- (5) None of the above

124. How can terrorism be rooted out?

- (1) By restoring dignity to the worth of human lives
- (2) By uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the poor
- (3) By preaching religious sermons to the people
- (4) By eliminating the terrorists
- (5) None of the above

125. Which of the following is true in context of the passage?

- (1) The authorities are much concerned about saving people from the deadly cold
- (2) The rich and the poor are equally falling prey to the extreme weather conditions
- (3) Jihad has nothing to do with religion
- (4) Terrorism has its roots in religion
- (5) None of the above

126. What is the basic difference between the toll of terrorism and that of cold or starvation?

- (1) One is man-made; the other is nature-made
- (2) One cannot be known in advance; the other can be
- (3) One is severe; the other is mild in nature
- (4) One marks religious intolerance, the other social injustice
- (5) None of the above

127. How can the state save its image in case of deaths resulting from cold and starvation?

- (1) By providing the system of weather forecast in every nook of the country
- (2) By alerting the people in advance and providing them with proper help in time
- (3) By giving them more weight than the toll of terrorism
- (4) By giving them enough publicity
- (5) None of the above

128. What is the message behind this passage?

- (1) Terrorism should not overshadow the other causes of death
- (2) Terrorism should not be mixed with religion
- (3) We should reject the politics of the day
- (4) We must understand the value of human life
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. Nos. 129 and 130) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

129. Tacit

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (1) Implied | (2) Worthy |
| (3) Hurried | (4) Calculated |
| (5) Borrowed | |

130. Deemed

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (1) Questioned | (2) Worried |
| (3) Categorised | (4) Differentiated |
| (5) Considered | |

PASSAGE 14

How far have we imbibed the qualities of a republic and is republicanism possible in a world given to globalisation and terrorism? How sovereign, democratic, caring and welfare-oriented can a state be these days? How much elbow room is there in today's world for a nation-state to exercise its own chosen political and economic options?

Unlike France, China or Vietnam, our republic was not weaned by a revolution. We came through colonialism by way of a national movement that bid farewell to British rule while keeping British institutions pretty much intact in a nation that emerged as a democratic dominion in 1947. The civil service with its attitude of being a club of a select elite; the police seeing its role as protector of the interests of the new power-elite in the form of politicians, the business and propertied classes; and the defence forces organised (as in British days) on the basis of caste and community, and with rituals, ceremonials and etiquette very 'pukka' and British, in fact colonial. The legal system in independent republican India continued to be modelled on the Inns of Court, its language, comprehension and costs remaining outside the ambit of those without a working knowledge of the English language, or access to cash in a cash economy.

However, in other ways, republican India achieved a critical break with British colonial India. The sheer fact that we have been through 13 general elections and numerous provincial vote-counts has given the vast electorate a sense of political empowerment. Indian voters have exercised their franchise with much skill and discretion in spite of large-scale illiteracy and vulnerability to intimidation (strong-arm tactics) and questionable inducements (cash hand-outs, liquor and sundry freebies). It is another matter that the elected representatives of the people have belied the expectations reposed in them.

131. Why does the author doubt the existence of republicanism in a scenario of globalisation and terrorism?

- (1) In such a scenario, borders of the nation's become meaningless
- (2) Terrorism targets mainly the republic states
- (3) Globalisation is against the republic form of government
- (4) In a republic there is no place for globalisation of terrorism
- (5) None of the above

132. Which of the following seems to be expressed in the passage about globalisation?

- (1) Globalisation and terrorism go hand in hand
- (2) In this age of globalisation there has been a significant increase in terrorism
- (3) Globalisation has influenced the political and economic affairs of the countries
- (4) Globalisation is older than the concept of republicanism
- (5) None of the above

133. What is in common among the republics of France, China and Vietnam?

- (1) All of them have rejected republicanism in this age of globalisation
- (2) All of these had some connection with methods of force to become republic

- (3) All of them took to revolution against republicanism
(4) All of them were under British rule in the past
(5) None of the above

134. Which of the following has not been talked about of having any connection with the British system in independent India?

- (1) Our judiciary (2) Our bureaucracy
(3) Our military (4) Our agriculture
(5) None of these

135. What reflects the political strength of the Indian voters?

- (1) Their active participation in freedom struggle
(2) Their unity during elections
(3) Their active participation in elections despite hurdles
(4) Their trade against the colonial system
(5) None of the above

136. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?

- (1) Vietnam is not a republic like India
(2) We are in an era of globalisation
(3) After gaining freedom India bid farewell to the legacy of British institutions
(4) Our elected leaders have fairly represented the will of the people
(5) None of the above

137. The author seems to be a

- (1) Historian (2) Social activist
(3) Legal expert (4) Political analyst
(5) Constitution expert

Directions (Q. Nos. 138 - 140) Choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the word given in bold as used in the passage.

138. Intact

- (1) Hindered (2) Sustained
(3) Ceased (4) Overlooked
(5) Damaged

139. Discretion

- (1) Anger (2) disloyalty
(3) Jealousy (4) Immaturity
(5) Suspense

140. Belied

- (1) Justified (2) Granted
(3) Sought (4) Welcomed
(5) Directed

PASSAGE 15

'Water scarcity looms large in the state.' This headline is enough to disturb people who have yet to forget the days when taps flowed for an hour every second day and long queues in front of public hydrants needed police presence to maintain order. But then, it was a fact that in Rajasthan, drinking water had to be transported by train last year. And hasn't someone predicted that the next war will be fought not over oil but for water? What comes like a heavenly blessing in this sombre setting is the hope ignited by watershed management effort in Madhya Pradesh. And the charm of it is that no aid or know-how had to be imported. It was just robust commonsense along with unstinted public participation that made the difference.

The Deendayal Research Institute, in collaboration with the District Rural Development Agency, Majhgawan (Satna), took up an area of 12536 hectares and formed 17 micro water shed schemes to tackle low productivity, lack of irrigation, a receding water table, shortage of drinking water, high soil erosion, etc. The 'watershed area' the area over which rainwater collects was taken as a unit. Contour



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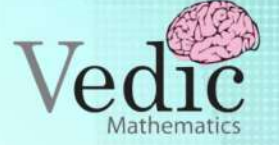
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trenching and bunding check the flow of water. Trenches are excavated and bunds erected (with the soil taken out) to check the free flow of the water. This prevents soil erosion while plenty of percolated water raises its sub-soil level.

The vision of water management programmes is as simple as they can be. Instead of tanks or dams, water is kept where nature keeps it underground. Thus, there is no loss due to evaporation. The old philosophy of 'water should not be allowed to run, it should walk' has been replaced by the new one which states that 'water should creep and ultimately, come to a halt'.

The whole point is to ensure that not a single drop is allowed to flow more than 10 metres above the surface. The paradoxical scenario will be of dry streams and unfilled tanks in the rainy season. Instead, the water that seeps in, reappears in wells, tube-wells, pond and stop dams later when and where wanted.

This strategy is the result of a calculated comparison of costs. An assessment was made of the amount of water saved and the expense incurred in each of the approaches available in the village of Dantha in Khandwa district. The cost of water secured through contour trenches, earthen checks, etc worked out to just 4 paise per litre. The system is so watertight that even if it rains upto 10 centimetres a day double the average daily downpour at Cherapunji, one of the heaviest rain receivers in the world not a drop of water will flow down the drain. The result is a water surplus even in conditions of low rainfall which was the case during the last three years.

141. Why does the headline 'Water scarcity looms large in the state' disturb the people of Rajasthan?

(1) Because people of Rajasthan are not familiar with water crisis on a big scale

(2) Because water is a very precious commodity for the people of Rajasthan.

(3) Because the people of Rajasthan have faced the nightmarish experience of water crisis

(4) Because Rajasthan has to buy water from other states to overcome water crisis

(5) None of the above

142. What does the passage imply when it says that the next war will be fought not over oil but for water?

(1) There is more stock of oil than water in the world

(2) Oil will lose its importance in near future

(3) Water is more precious for mankind than oil and man can go to any extent to get it

(4) Water is such a dynamic commodity that it can be used in place of oil but the same does not apply with oil

(5) None of the above

143. What happens when water is stored in tanks or dams instead of keeping it underground?

(1) Owing to overuse, it does not last long

(2) It takes higher maintenance cost as compared to underground water

(3) The naturalness of water gradually wanes

(4) It generates war-like situation among the people over its use

(5) None of the above

144. The philosophy 'Water should creep and ultimately, come to a halt' is meant for

(1) water harvesting and its storage

(2) the mismanagement of water

(3) the looming water crisis

(4) the abundant use of water

(5) the evergreen scarcity of water





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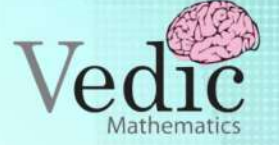
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145. How is the flow of water checked in a watershed area?

- (1) By collecting the rain water
- (2) Trenches are dug and borders raised so that the water does not go outside
- (3) Irrigation from the watershed area makes free flow of water impossible as there is no surplus water
- (4) In watershed area water is allowed to creep and not run, so there is no free flow of water
- (5) None of the above

146. How does watershed scheme check soil erosion?

- (1) By hardening the soil
- (2) By raising the level of the soil
- (3) By saving the trees and bushes from getting uprooted
- (4) By checking the free flow of water which contains soil with it
- (5) None of the above

147. Following watershed management will lead to a scene of dry streams and unfilled tanks in the rainy season. This means that

- (1) large quantity of water has sunk beneath the surface of the earth
- (2) large quantity of water has evaporated
- (3) large quantity of water has flown outside
- (4) there will be a water crisis in the near future
- (5) water has become a scarce commodity

148. Which of the following seems to be false in the context of the passage?

- (1) Bunding along with digging helps in checking the flow of water
- (2) There have been successful efforts of watershed management in Rajasthan
- (3) Public participation is necessary in watershed management
- (4) Watershed management is a cost-effective scheme
- (5) None of the above

149. What message does the author want to convey through this passage?

- (1) There is no dearth of water in our country
- (2) Rajasthan can borrow the surplus water from Madhya Pradesh
- (3) Water scarcity is a man-made phenomenon
- (4) With the help of appropriate strategy and people's participation water scarcity can be overcome
- (5) None of the above

Directions (Q. No. 150) Choose the word which is the same in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage.

150. Looms

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (1) Appears | (2) Depends |
| (3) Assumes | (4) Remains |
| (5) Surrounds | |

