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Solved Practice Question Set on English
Language for IBPS PO Exam 2012:Set- 1

Directions-(Q.1-5) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words I phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Jagir Singh has sold red onions at a market in South Delhi every day for the past half-century. Perched on an upturned crate, wrapped tight against the chill air, he offers pyaz, a staple for much Indian cooking, for 60 rupees a kilo, the most he can remember. Business is brisk but most customers pick up only a small handful of onions. That is just as well-wholesale supplies are tight, he says, and the quality is poor.

As India's economy grows by some 9% a year, food prices are soaring. In late December the commerce ministry judged that food inflation had reached 18.3%, with pricey vegetables mostly to blame. Officials have made some attempts to temper the rise in the past month scrapping import taxes for onions, banning their export and ordering low-priced sales at government-run shops. But there is no quick fix.

Heavy rain in the west of India brought a rotten harvest. Vegetables from farther afield-including a politically sensitive delivery from a neighbouring country-are costly to move on India's crowded, potholed roads. Few refrigerated lorries and poor logistics mean that much of each harvest is wasted. Newspapers allege hoarders are cashing in.

The biggest problems are structural. Food producers, hampered by land restrictions, archaic retail networks and bad infrastructure, fail to meet extra demand from consumers.

It was estimated in October that a 39% rise in income per person in the previous five years might have created an extra 220 million regular consumers of milk, eggs, meat and fish. Supplies have not kept up with this potential demand.

The broader inflation rate may be a less eye-watering problem than the onions suggest. The central bank has lifted interest rates steadily in the past year and is expected to do so again later this month. Headline inflation fell to 7.5% in November, down by just over a percentage point from October, though it is still above the central bank's forecast of 5.5% for March.

1. What can be said about the sale of onions at present as given in the passage?

- (1) Vegetable vendors are unwilling to sell onions
- (2) People are not buying as much as they used to
- (3) The sale of onions has picked up and is unprecedented
- (4) People are buying more onions than they used to
- (5) None of these

2. The usage of the phrase 'cashing in' in the passage can possibly mean-

- (1) Profiting
- (2) Running Away

(3) Paying Money

(4) Bailing out

(5) Buffering

3. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the word 'Tight' as used in the passage?

(1) Firm

(2) Loose

(3) Limited

(4) Taut

(5) Tense

4. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the word 'Temper' as used in the passage?

(1) Displeasure

(2) Anger

(3) Rage

(4) Horness

(5) Control

5. Which of the following is most opposite in meaning to the word 'Archaic' as used in the passage?

(1) Simple

(2) Straightforward

(3) Modern

(4) Lively

(5) Ancient

Directions-(Q.6-10) Each question below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank which best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

6. The water transport project on the west coast is _____ to get a shot in the arm with a new plan in which the Road Development Corporation will build the infrastructure and _____ a private party to operate the service.

(1) scheduled -let

(2) verge - permit

(3) set-sanctions

(4) slated - allow

(5) bound - task

7. As the weekend finally rolled around, the city folk were only _____ happy to settle down and laugh their cares _____

(1) just - afar

(2) too - away

(3) extremely - off

(4) very - up

(5) so - on

8. The flood of brilliant ideas has not only _____ us, but has also encouraged us to _____ the last date for submission of entries.

(1) overwhelmed - extend

(2) enjoyed - stretch

(3) dismayed - decide

(4) scared - scrap

(5) happy – boundary

9. _____ about prolonged power cuts in urban areas, the authorities have decided to _____ over to more reliable and eco-friendly systems to run its pumps.

(1) Worried - shift

(2) Frantic - move

(3) Troubled - jump

(4) Concerned - switch

(5) Endangered - click

10. The high cutoff marks this year have _____ college admissionseekers to either _____ for lesser known colleges or change their subject preferences.

(1) cajoled - ask

- (2) pressured - sit
- (3) forced - settle
- (4) strained - compromise
- (5) entrusted – wait

Directions (Q.11-15): Rearrange the following seven sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F) and (G) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below.

(A) But seriously, how much would you pay to know what thoughts are swimming around in someone else's head?

(B) In most fictional movies, thus, the idea of reading minds-of seeing the private intentions of another, and the possibility of intervening in those plans - has always been highly attractive.

(C) Such fantastic questions have long been the bread and butter of fiction,

(D) Today, more than four centuries since the phrase, "A penny for your thoughts?", was first recorded, inflationary accounting makes that ancient penny was worth more than \$40.

(E) The going rate for a "thought"-a probe into the thinking of another-was once quite a bargain.

(F) And if you could really know their truthfulness, how much more would you pay?

(G) Even with the sliding value of the dollar, this still seems quite a bargain.

11. Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) F
- (2) D
- (3) C
- (4) G
- (5) B

12. Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) G
- (4) D
- (5) F

13. Which of the following should be the SIXTH sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) F
- (2) G
- (3) C
- (4) B
- (5) A

14. Which of the following should be the SEVENTH (Last) sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D
- (5) E

15. Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A
- (2) B
- (3) C
- (4) D
- (5) E

Directions (Q.16-20): 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. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

The economics of owning and running a Ration Shop, the familiar name for the outlets in our Public Distribution System (PDS), are such that under normal business terms, the shop-owner could never make a profit. Yet, (16) the government announces that new permits for ration shops will be given out, there is frenzy in the market to grab one of these. (17)? The answer is obvious: the business is not for the honest and if one knows the (18), there is a fortune to be made. What are these tricks of the trade?

Getting fake names into the user list is the most obvious option; the State seems to be (19) a losing battle against this practice, judging by the endless efforts to weed out bogus ration cards.

The next is to get the 'right customers' on the list, not just more customers. These are people who are registered but who do not have any interest in (20) on their entitlements.

16.

- (1) whenever
- (2) quickly
- (3) just
- (4) as soon
- (5) time

17.

- (1) What
- (2) When
- (3) Where
- (4) Why
- (5) How

18.

- (1) lying
- (2) people
- (3) sprouting
- (4) hard work
- (5) ropes

19.

- (1) attempt
- (2) waging
- (3) winning
- (4) expecting
- (5) trying

20.

- (1) harping
- (2) discussing
- (3) realising
- (4) drawing
- (5) giving

Directions (Q.21 to 25) Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

A Russian proverb advises us not to buy a house, but the neighbourhood. While till some years ago it was impossible to dictate who lived with you in the same quarters, today when you think of buying a home, you could actually create your own dream neighbourhood - thanks to the Internet and the group buying model.

The group buying model has been applied in different industries, from cars to baby merchandise to pet care products. Now, the trend is catching on in the real estate sector, with many sites as well as broking firms offering group deals on real estate projects in India.

The way it works is simple. Take xxx.com for example. This is an online and offline . integrated platform which showcases property. It uses social media networks to let buyers know about possible good deals, and leaving it to them to do some viral marketing. Once a large group of buyers is thus formed, xxx.com introduces it to the developer and helps negotiate a suitable discount.

Since, the developer doesn't have to pay for the marketing, It is willing enough to pay these companies a transaction fee which is a percentage of the total value of the deal. For the buyers, it offers the best rates at no fee, thus making it a win-win proposition for all involved.

The developers also benefit by getting substantial cash flow, giving them a good amount of working capital. "In today's real estate scenario, bulk buying could be the answer to the market slump and the long awaited cash flow," says the Founder of xxx. com.

Sometimes, the discount size is not to be sneered at. Discounts on group buying vary from 5-30 percent, the average divergence from market rate being 25-30 per cent

Customer 'buy-in' is the model. But is it a temporary fad?

In a way, the online group buying set-up is similar to the model developers share with speculators, who buy in bulk even before the project gets kick-started and get discounts of 30-40 per cent. They pay 50 per cent of the property value upfront. Group buying companies prove more beneficial for developers as they get away with providing lesser discounts than to speculators.

Some sound a note of caution on the trend. Present conditions are conducive for this business model as group buying works well in a situation where stocks are moving slowly, markets are jittery and there is ample supply. It may not work in a seller's' market.

Another caution is - Very often the builders do not offer the best inventory to the group in terms of location and utility. The buyers have to use their astute judgement to avoid such traps.

21. The discount size on group buying, compared to usual discount to speculators is usually

- (1) less
- (2) more
- (3) equal
- (4) unpredictable
- (5) much higher

22. Which of the following may be the objective of the passage?

- (1) To reveal. less discounts being offered by the developers
- (2) To highlight the problems of housing industry
- (3) To highlight the importance of neighbourhood in one's life
- (4) To provide information on group buying trends of property
- (5) To inform the buyers about ample supply of property

23. Group buying of real estate is done

- (1) mainly offline
- (2) only offline
- (3) only through brokers
- (4) either online or offline
- (5) in a secret 'manner only

24. xxx.com are the

- (1) developers
- (2) financiers
- (3) loan providers
- (4) speculators
- (5) None of these

25. The group buying model certainly did not start with

- (1) cars
- (2) real estate
- (3) pet care products
- (4) baby products
- (5) motorcycles

Directions (Q.26 to 30) Which of the phrases (1), (2), (3) and (4) given below should replace the phrase given in bold in the following sentence to make the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No correction is required', mark (5) as the answer.

26. He behaved though it was his fault, but we knew he was not responsible for it.

- (1) even though it was
- (2) though it was not
- (3) as if it was
- (4) despite it was not
- (5) No correction required

27. She never felt that it was not of her business' to get involved in somebody else's family matter.

- (1) were not of her business
- (2) was none of her business
- (3) was of not her business
- (4) was not of her businesses
- (5) No correction required

28. Being born in a certain family is not in our control.

- (1) Be born
- (2) Taking born
- (3) By birth
- (4) Being borned
- (5) No correction required

29. I was taken back by his sudden comment on this issue.

- (1) would be taken back by
- (2) was taken backwards by
- (3) was taken back for
- (4) was taken aback by
- (5) No correction required

30. In a matter of seconds, we come to know of what is happening anywhere in the world.

- (1) came to know of
- (2) come to be known of
- (3) come to know off
- (4) are coming to know of
- (5) No correction required

Directions-(Q.31-35) Which of phrases (A), (B), (C) and (D) given low each sentence should replace phrase printed in bold in the sentence to make it grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it given and no correction is required, ark (E) as the answer.

31. Seeing that there was an ongoing sale in one of her favourite stores, Seeta made a bee-line for it immediately after entering the Mall.

- (A) made a bee's line for
- (B) make bees lined to
- (C) made bee -Tine to
- (D) make bee - line to
- (E) No correction required

32. Sharon made it to work in the nicks of times, or else she would have missed the meeting.

- (A) nick of time
- (B) nicked time
- (C) nick of timeliness
- (D) nick and time
- (E) No correction required

33. Varun was on cloud nine after having stood first in his class.

- (A) in ninth cloud
- (B) on nine clouds
- (C) a cloudy nine
- (D) cloud on nine
- (E) No correction required

34. Vithal had a habit of pass the buck when it came to important issues at work.

- (A) pass to bucking
- (B) passing buck
- (C) passing the buck
- (D) pass buck
- (E) No correction required

35. Puneet raked his brains and tried to find an answer to a tricky question given in the paper but couldn't find one.

- (A) rake his brain
- (B) racked his brains
- (C) racked brains
- (D) raked brain
- (E) No correction required

Directions (Q.36-40): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is 5). (Ignore errors of punctuations, if any.)

36. Some genuine issues exist I with the newly adopted /

- 1) system and needs to I be examined seriously. / No error
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

37. Whether or not to confront I them about their role /

- 1) 2)

in the matter is a decision /which is yet to take. / No error

- 3) 4) 5)

38. The government is still in the / process of finalized new

- 1) 2)

policy / guidelines for the allocation of land I to private

- 3)

sector organisations. / No error

- 4) 5)

39. According to government estimates /at least four mil-

- 1)

lions tonnes of sugar /will have to be imported / this

- 2) 3)

year because of a poor monsoon./ No error

- 4) 5)

40. In our experience people usually / value things that they

- 1) 2)

have to /payoff more than those that /they receive free

- 3) 4)

of cost. / No error

- 5)

41. At present China is the / world's leader manufacture /

- 1) 2)

of environment-friendly products / such as electric cars

- 3) 4)

and bicycles. / No error

5)

42. Over eighty per cent from us / feel that if we had taken /

1) 2)

Some corrective measures earlier / the crisis could have

3) 4)

been averted. / No error

5)

43. The manager of that city branch / cannot handle it with

1) 2)

the help of / only two personnel as / business has

1) 4)

increased substantially. / No error

5)

44. With the literacy rates in this / region as low as ten per cent

1) 2)

/ we need to encourage / local people to build schools. /

3) 4)

No error

5)

45. While-providing such facilities/ online makes it coven-

1) 2)

ient / and easily accessible for customers, / we face several

3) 4)

challenges. / No error

5)

Directions (Q.46-50): 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. Find out the appropriate word in each case. The world's climate has always changed and species have evolved accordingly to survive it. The surprising fact about the (46) between evolution and global warming (47) that it is not linear. (48) temperatures alone are not (49) of evolution. Evolution is also the (50) of seasonal changes.

46.

- (1) difference
- (2) similarity
- (3) argument
- (4) relationship

(5) alliance

47.

- (1) being
- (2) seems
- (3) mainly
- (4) besides
- (5) is

48.

- (1) However
- (2) Mounted
- (3) Rising
- (4) Elevating
- (5) Inclining

49.

- (1) means
- (2) triggers
- (3) responses
- (4) threats

(5) stimulus

50.

(1) result

(2) precursor

(3) resistance

(4) cause

(5) provocation

ANSWER SHEET

1	(2)
2	(1)
3	(3)
4	(5)
5	(3)
6	(4)
7	(2)
8	(1)
9	(4)
10	(3)
11	(2)
12	(1)
13	(3)
14	(2)
15	(5)
16	(1)
17	(4)
18	(5)
19	(2)
20	(4)
21	(5)
22	(4)
23	(4)
24	(5)
25	(5)

26	(3)
27	(2)
28	(5)
29	(4)
30	(4)
31	(5)
32	(1)
33	(5)
34	(5)
35	(2)
36	(3)
37	(4)
38	(2)
39	(2)
40	(3)
41	(2)
42	(1)
43	(3)
44	(5)
45	(5)
46	(4)
47	(5)
48	(3)
49	(2)
50	(1)