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'RC DAILY DOSE'
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Instructions : *The RC Daily Dose is a set of 20 excellent RC practice questions, with detailed solutions. Normally every day, one such set will be uploaded into the MEMBERS AREA. These are PDF files and can be saved on your computer. Enjoy!*

PASSAGE – 1

It was a few minutes before air time and the talk-show host was about to begin his daily radio program. He poured himself a cup of coffee and then, turning to me, said something surprising:

"You know, this job never gets any easier," said this erudite man who for years has presided over an extremely popular call-in show. "Every time I go on the air, I have to overcome a fear that I'll fail; that the show won't be any good."

He paused. "But I've found out something interesting about failing. And that is, you can build on success but you really learn only from failure."

A few days later, a letter arrived that seemed, in a way, to continue this line of thought. Written by a young man I know quite well, the letter concerned itself with the idea that adversity might offer, in the long run, more rewards than getting what you thought you wanted. My correspondent wrote:

"What I guess I'm learning from my difficult situation is a deeper sense of who I am. And what I'm capable of when it comes to handling disappointment. I think-at least I hope-I'll come out of this a stronger person."

Then last week, in what seemed a curious completion of the philosophy lurking beneath both these remarks, I came across this unattributed quotation in a book on mountain climbing:

"Today is a new day; you'll get out of it just what you put into it. If you have made mistakes, even serious mistakes, you can make a new start whenever you choose. For the thing we call failure is not the falling down but the staying down."

Few among us can claim the distinction of not knowing the sting of falling down, of "failure". The promotion not gotten; the honor not won; the job lost; the praise denied, we've all known the loss of self-esteem that comes with such moments. And because the wound of failure is a deep one, we seldom risk sharing our feelings about such moments.

"Success does not necessarily build character- sometimes it doesn't even build self-confidence," says a friend, one judged by the world to be successful. "But most people I know-including myself- can point to a disappointment or a failure that resulted in what I would call a quantum leap of self- knowledge and self-confidence. The confidence comes from knowing that you can get through 'failure' and come out stronger on the other side."

Still, she admits that it is a "painful process to go through."

Some successful people find that they become "addicted" to honors and accolades. And when they don't get them-when they're just doing well at their job-not sensationally well-they feel depressed.

"It's taken me a long time to understand that prizes and honors, while wonderful to receive, have a short shelf life," says one successful journalist. "I have found that the sense of achievement you get from 'winning' needs to be constantly renewed. It's easy to feel good about yourself when you're winning. It's not winning that's hard. But that's when you learn to dig deeper and do your best work. Not for the rewards of success but for the rewards of self- respect."

A few years back, I found myself needing to dig down deep (and not for the first time in my life) to find a firmer foundation upon which to build my understanding of what success is and what failure is. And my friend was right: It is quite a painful experience to confront the loss of some trapping or another that seems bound up with success.

But eventually what emerged from the digging was a sense of something akin to freedom. A realization that there's a feeling of accomplishment and success that comes from mastering the pain of failure. And then getting on with the job.

Honors and accolades are wonderful. Promotions are wonderful. Success--however you define it-is wonderful. But none of them, in my experience, really teaches you anything of lasting value about yourself.

Adversity, on the other hand, can be an inspirational teacher.

It is written somewhere that you stand on the summit for only a few moments, then the wind blows your footprints away.

Life's like that, too. Harvard Business School probably doesn't teach that to its MBA's. But you know what? Maybe it should.

1. *All of the following seem to be in place, as far as the passage is concerned, except that :*
 - (1) failure enables a person to come out stronger on the other side.
 - (2) self-confidence is damaged by failure.
 - (3) success does not always build character and self-confidence.
 - (4) failure provides the required inspiration.

2. Which of the following would best go along with the author's viewpoint, as expressed in the passage ?
 - (1) Nothing succeeds like success.
 - (2) The ultimate aim is to be a winner, never mind the ways and means adopted.
 - (3) Sweet are the uses of adversity.
 - (4) Failure is related to a cause.
3. Failure, as conveyed by the passage, enables a person to :
 - (1) undergo self introspection and thereby learn.
 - (2) acquire a deep sense of self-identification.
 - (3) become stronger in knowing that failure can be 'gone and got through'.
 - (4) All of the above.
4. Which of the following would best represent the underlying theme of the passage ?
 - (1) One can build on success, but one really learns from failure.
 - (2) Failure is a painful process to go through.
 - (3) Prizes and honours have a dazzling effect on the recipient.
 - (4) Success is short lived.
5. The author has described 'failure' in the passage as :
 - (1) the cause of depression and nervous breakdown.
 - (2) the reason for one to feel pessimistic and view life negatively.
 - (3) the source of strength and self confidence in a person.
 - (4) the genesis of rivalry and enmity.
6. A suitable title for the passage could be :
 - (1) Success And Failure.
 - (2) Adversity-Too Painful.
 - (3) Success Is Transient.
 - (4) Adversity-An Inspirational Teacher.
7. Which of the following is a false conclusion drawn from the passage ?
 - (1) Mastering the pain of 'failure' is an accomplishment.
 - (2) Success does not build character or generate self confidence.
 - (3) A sense of achievement derived from 'Winning' has to be renewed constantly.
 - (4) Honours, accolades, promotions and success are good ways of acquiring self-knowledge and self-identification.
8. The author, as per the passage, :
 - (1) views 'failure' positively.
 - (2) looks down on 'success'.
 - (3) gives importance to hardwork.
 - (4) is carried away by honour, accolades and promotions.
9. The overall effect of the passage is :
 - (1) boring
 - (2) confusing
 - (3) convincing
 - (4) imposing
10. Which of the following is quite unlikely the source from where the passage could have been extracted ?
 - (1) Musings of a serious thinker about success and failure to be experienced in life.
 - (2) A motivational talk given by the group leader urging the members to be strong in accepting failures.
 - (3) An article about the dangers of being over confident.
 - (4) The notings of a parapsychologist describing the human reaction to failures and coming out with remedies to overcome the mental setback and depression.

PASSAGE – 2

Figures from the 2000 census confirmed what many Americans had observed over the previous decade in their communities and workplaces. The face of the nation was perceptibly changing. The Census Bureau estimated that 6 million legal and 2 million undocumented immigrants entered the country during the 1990s, second only to the 8.8 million foreign immigrants that arrived between 1950 and 1960. More than a third of the nation's population growth over the decade—from 227 million to 248 million—came from immigration. This proportion of increase caused by foreign migrants was greater than any since the decade between 1960 and 1970, when immigration accounted for 40 percent of population growth. Seven states, headed by California, New York, Texas, and Florida, received 75 percent of the newcomers.

Hispanics and Asians led the accelerated trend toward cultural diversity. The Hispanic population increased by more than 50 percent, from 14.6 million to 22.4 million. One out of every five immigrants living in the U.S. was Mexican-born, and Mexican

Americans overall composed more than 60 percent of the Hispanic population identified in the 2000 census. Demographers predicted that by the middle of the next century Hispanics would replace African Americans as the largest minority group in the nation.

The decline of world oil prices had a devastating impact on the Mexican economy, worsening poverty and unemployment and spurring more people to seek a better life in North America. Most Mexican Americans struggled in low-paying jobs and fought to hold onto their distinctive cultural heritage. They worked on farms, in garment sweatshops and high tech assembly plants, and as gardeners and domestics. Through education and business success, a significant number achieved middle class status and wealth. But almost 20 percent of Mexican Americans lived below the poverty line.

The number of Asian Americans more than doubled, from 3.5 million to 7.3 million. Nearly two out of every five Asian Americans lived in California. The population of Korea town in Los Angeles approached 300,000 and the area seemed a world unto itself. Like earlier immigrant groups, new Americans from Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines tended to cluster in their own communities and maintain a durable group identity. As a whole, Asian Americans made mobility through education a priority, along with pooling family capital and labor to support small businesses. Newcomers selected communities with job opportunities or where families and friends had settled. This social network, for example, explained the large numbers of Hmongs, a tribal group from Laos, drawn to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1965 had eliminated quotas based on national origin. It also gave preferential treatment to highly educated foreigners seeking professional opportunities in the U.S. The 1965 act set limits of 120,000 immigrants per year from the Western Hemisphere and 170,000 from countries outside the Western Hemisphere. By the mid-1980s, growing concern over "illegal aliens" had become a hotly debated political issue, particularly in the Southwest. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1987 addressed the concerns of Anglos worried about "illegals" and the increasingly influential Mexican American community. It required employers for the first time to vouch for the legal status of their employees. At the same time, it offered an amnesty to all undocumented workers who had entered the country before 1982. The law, critics charged, led to discrimination in hiring. And no matter what Congress did, the desperate economic realities in Mexico and Central America continued to encourage the flow of illegal immigration.

11. *Which of the following was the main cause of illegal immigration to North America ?*
 - (1) The lure and promise of an opulent life.
 - (2) The liberal and free environment prevailing in North America.
 - (3) America had emerged as a prominent world market for production and innovation.
 - (4) The economic realities in Mexico and Central America had reached the desperate position.
12. *The increase in 'diversity' in American culture was on account of the presence of immigrants who were :*
 - (1) Mexicans
 - (2) Asians & Hispanics
 - (3) Germans
 - (4) Anglo Saxons
13. *Which of the following is out of place in relation to the passage ?*
 - (1) The Immigration Reform Act of 1965 was highly discriminatory towards foreigners.
 - (2) Asian Americans had education as prime motive in settling in America.
 - (3) Hispanics are predicted to be the largest minority group in the nation the middle of the next century.
 - (4) It was not an easy going for Mexican Americans to thrive in North America.
14. *The Mexican economic slump was caused by :*
 - (1) a change in the political set up.
 - (2) decline in world oil prices.
 - (3) over population of foreigners.
 - (4) stubbornness of the Mexicans to hold on to their cultural heritage and not adapt to the changes.
15. *Which of the following could be a feature of the Immigration Reform Act 1965 ?*
 - (1) Quotas based on national origin were done away with.
 - (2) Preference was given to foreigners who had good educational antecedents, seeking opportunities in the U.S.
 - (3) Annual limits for immigrants were prescribed separately for Western and non-Western Hemisphere.
 - (4) All of the above.
16. *The passage, at best, could be an extract from :*
 - (1) a chapter on Population Studies, part of the curriculum in Social Science.
 - (2) an analytical article on U.S. immigration.
 - (3) a report regarding the exodus of Mexicans and Latin Americans.
 - (4) the findings as regards the life led by the early settlers in the U.S.
17. *The objective behind the U.S. immigration, as brought out by the passage, was to :*
 - (1) surmount the grave problems of poverty and unemployment by seeking better employment opportunities.
 - (2) support small family businesses by pooling in family capital of labour and add to the group identity.
 - (3) Outnumber the local Americans making them to be a minority group.
 - (4) All except (3).

18. *The situation, arising out of an influx of immigrants, is :*
- (1) beneficial to the host nation in terms of the increase in manpower resources.
 - (2) healthy for a balanced mix of varying cultures and traditions making the host nation a truly secular one.
 - (3) alarming for the host nation as the entire economy would be upset.
 - (4) not congenial for the host nation as there would be deterioration in law and order situation.
19. *As per the passage, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1987 :*
- (1) expressed grave concerns on the increasing influence of the Mexican American Community.
 - (2) required employers for the first time to vouch for the legal status of their employees.
 - (3) invited wrath and criticism for being discriminatory in hiring people.
 - (4) All of the above.
20. *The passage is handled in a manner which is :*
- (1) illogical
 - (2) interrogative
 - (3) inferential
 - (4) illusory



Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(2).** The passage upholds options (1), (3) and (4) as they are found in the passage. Option (2) is out of place, for the passage does not state it. The sought option is (2).
2. **Ans.(3).** The passage, though not glorifying 'failure' and 'adversity', has not denounced it. On the other hand, the author is of the opinion that 'adversity' and 'failure' have much to teach and inspire than 'prosperity' and 'success'. Option (3) best signifies and is the option sought. The remaining options do not reflect the author's views.
3. **Ans.(4).** Each of the options (1), (2) and (3) are endorsed by the author. The passage makes a mention of or implies them. Hence, option (4), a combination of (1), (2) and (3) is the best one.
4. **Ans.(1).** Each of the options (2), (3) and (4) find a place in the passage but they do not represent the underlying theme. The second paragraph states that it is 'failure', not 'success', which strengthens a person. One can build on 'success' but one learns only from 'failure'. Hence, option (1) aptly represents this.
5. **Ans.(3).** Options (1), (2) and (4) are not stated in the passage. Option (3) is the correct one for the passage, in the middle, comes out with this viewpoint.
6. **Ans.(4).** The title of the passage should adequately represent the core idea or the contents of the passage. Options (1), (2) and (3), though correct, are partial and do not represent the complete idea of the passage. Option (4) is the correct one, for the passage has brought out the notions on adversity vividly.
7. **Ans.(4).** Option (1), (2) and (3) are all derived from the passage and are the conclusions drawn from it. Option (4) is refuted in the penultimate paragraph for the opposite of it is implied. The sought option is therefore (4).
8. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) is the correct one. 'Failure' as is thought of and perceived is not that 'dark'. The 'brighter' side of 'failure' is reasoned out convincingly. The remaining options fall out of place as they are not the author's viewpoint.
9. **Ans.(3).** The author is convincing in putting forth the ideas of the acceptance of failure as a way to learn and upgrade oneself. Option (3) is the correct one. The remaining options can be overlooked.
10. **Ans.(3).** The passage is about success and failures. Each of them is objectively handled with no bias. Obviously it is the work of the serious writer. Option (3) is quite unlikely the source of extraction of the passage because nothing is mentioned of the danger of being overconfident. The remaining options are in place.
11. **Ans.(4).** Option (1), (2) and (3) find no place in the passage, direct or implicit. The last line of the passage states the desperate economic realities in Mexico and Central America as being the cause of illegal immigration. Option (4) best depicts this.
12. **Ans.(2).** The second paragraph very clearly states that Hispanics and Asians added to the cultural diversity of America. The remaining options (3) and (4) are not stated and option (1) is incorrect.
13. **Ans.(1).** Options (2), (3) and (4) find a mention in the passage in the fifth, third and the fourth paragraphs respectively. Option (1) is refuted in the second line of the last paragraph and is out of place. The sought option is (1).
14. **Ans.(2).** The fourth paragraph is about the reasons for Mexicans leaving their homeland in search for greener pastures. The economic slump was triggered by the decline in oil prices the world over. Option (2) best denotes this. The remaining options are not apt.
15. **Ans.(4).** The last paragraph mentions options (1), (2) and (3) as salient features of the Immigration Reform Act passed by the U.S. in 1965. Options (1), (2) and (3) are in place, however option (4), their combination is the desired one.
16. **Ans.(2).** The passage is all about the settlement of the foreigners in the U.S., driven by certain causes and in fulfilment of certain objectives. It gives out the reasons for such an influx. Hence option (2) fits in evenly. The remaining options are not correct.
17. **Ans.(4).** The fifth paragraph upholds options (1) and (2) but refutes option (3) as this is not stated. Hence option (4), a combination of (1) and (2) is the pick.
18. **Ans.(3).** Option (3) is the obvious choice because more people mean more mouths to feed. This causes a dent in the economy. The resources are limited, if not scarce, but the users are many. Options (1), (2) and (4) are irrelevant to the passage.
19. **Ans.(4).** The last paragraph upholds and mentions each of the options (1), (2) and (3). All of them are part of the Immigration Reform and Control Act passed in 1987. However, option (4), their combination, is the perfect one.
20. **Ans.(3).** The passage contains various facts and information from which certain conclusions can be inferred. Hence (3) is the best one. The remaining options (1), (2) and (4) are out of place.

Answer Keys

(3) 20.	(4) 19.	(3) 18.	(4) 17.	(4) 16.	(4) 15.	(2) 14.	(1) 13.	(2) 12.	(4) 11.
(3) 10.	(3) 9.	(1) 8.	(4) 7.	(4) 6.	(3) 5.	(1) 4.	(4) 3.	(3) 2.	(2) 1.