

SBI - Clerk Recruitment Exam 2009

General English

Directions—(Q. 1–12) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Keshava, the washerman had a donkey. They worked together all day, and Keshava would pour out his heart to the donkey. One day, Keshava was walking home with the donkey when he felt tired. He tied the donkey to a tree and sat down to rest for a while, near a school. A window was open, and through it, a teacher could be heard scolding the students. ‘Here I am, trying to turn you donkeys into human beings, but you just won’t study!’ As soon as Keshava heard these words, his ears pricked up. A man who could actually turn donkeys into humans! This was the answer to his prayers. Impatiently, he waited for school to be over that day. When everyone had gone home, and only the teacher **remained** behind to check some papers, Keshava entered the classroom.

‘How can I help you?’ asked the teacher. Keshava scratched his head and said, ‘I heard what you said to the children. This donkey is my companion. If you made it human, we could have such good times together.’ The teacher decided to **trick** Keshava. He pretended to think for a while and then said, ‘Give me six months and it will cost you a thousand rupees.’ The washerman agreed and rushed home to get the money. He then left the donkey in the teacher’s care.

After the six months were up, Keshava went to the teacher. The teacher had been using the donkey for his own work. Not wanting to give it up, he said, ‘Oh, your donkey became so clever that it ran away. He is the headman of the next village.’ When Keshava reached the next village he found the village elders sitting under a tree, discussing serious problems. How surprised they were when Keshava marched up to the headman, grabbed his arm and said, ‘How dare you? You think you are so clever that you ran away? Come home at once!’

The headman understood someone had played a trick on Keshava. ‘I am not your donkey!’ he said. ‘Go find the sage in the forest.’ Keshava found the sage sitting under a tree with his eyes closed, **deep** in meditation. He crept up and grabbed the sage’s beard. ‘Come back home now!’ he shouted. The startled sage somehow calmed Keshava. When he heard what had happened, he had a good laugh. Then he told the washerman kindly, ‘The teacher made a fool of you. Your donkey must be still with him. Go and take it back from him. Try to make some **real** friends, who will talk with you and share your troubles. A donkey will never be able to do that!’ Keshava returned home later that day with his donkey, sadder and wiser.

1. Which of the following can be said about the teacher?

- (A) He had the ability to transform animals into human beings
- (B) He took advantage of Keshava’s simple nature

- (C) He had plotted with the village headman to cheat Keshava
- (D) He enjoyed teaching children though he was poorly paid
- (E) He was honest and used Keshava's money to care for the donkey

Ans : (B)

2. Why did Keshava talk to his donkey while working ?

- (A) He wanted to practise his communication skills because he wanted to make friends
- (B) To entertain himself because he found his work monotonous
- (C) The donkey helped him to find answers to his problems
- (D) He regarded the donkey as his friend and confided in him
- (E) He believed the donkey to be a human being in disguise

Ans : (E)

3. How did Keshava get his donkey back ?

- (A) He threatened to take the teacher to the village elders
- (B) The sage forced the teacher to release the donkey
- (C) He asked the village headman for help
- (D) The teacher returned it on learning that Keshava had learnt his lesson
- (E) None of these

Ans : (E)

4. Which of the following is **NOT** true in the context of the passage?

- (a) The donkey was over burdened by the teacher.
 - (b) The teacher was cunning by nature.
 - (c) The sage laughed at Keshava and treated him unkindly.
- (A) Both (a) & (c)
 - (B) Both (b) & (c)
 - (C) Only (b)
 - (D) All (a), (b) & (c)
 - (E) None of these

Ans : (A)

5. Why was Keshava keen to meet the teacher one day ?

- (A) Keshava wanted to ask the teacher how to make his donkey a better companion
- (B) He wanted to learn more prayers as he was devout
- (C) He had been reliably informed that the teacher had changed donkeys into human beings
- (D) He heeded the teacher's words of advice and wanted to study
- (E) None of these

Ans : (A)

6. Why did Keshava interrupt the discussion among the village elders ?

- (A) He did not agree with their views on different issues
- (B) To confront the headman who had cheated him out of one thousand rupees
- (C) He wanted them to get justice for him
- (D) He was looking for the donkey and wanted to ask for directions
- (E) None of these

Ans : (E)

7. What made Keshava pull the sage's beard ?

- (A) He wanted to wake up the sage who was a sleep under the tree
- (B) The headman requested him to move the sage from under the tree
- (C) He wanted the sage to explain what had happened to the donkey
- (D) He misunderstood the village headman and took the sage to be his donkey
- (E) None of these

Ans : (D)

8. Why did the teacher ask Keshava to leave the donkey with him for six months ?

- (a) He realised that the donkey would require a lot of training.
 - (b) To reduce Keshava's dependence on the donkey.
 - (c) He wanted to rescue the donkey from Keshava who did not know to treat the donkey properly.
- (A) None
 - (B) Only (b)
 - (C) Both (a) & (b)
 - (D) Only (c)
 - (E) None of these

Ans : (A)

Directions—(Q. 9–10) Choose the word which is **MOST SIMILAR** in **MEANING** to the word printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

9. **trick**

- (A) joke
- (B) skill
- (C) mislead
- (D) technique
- (E) lunny

Ans : (C)

10. **remained**

- (A) pending
- (B) waited
- (C) lasted
- (D) survived
- (E) continued

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 11–12) Choose the word which is **MOST OPPOSITE** in **MEANING** to the word printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

11. **real**

- (A) false

- (B) imitated
- (C) dishonest
- (D) imagine
- (E) genuine

Ans : (A)

12. **deep**

- (A) low
- (B) distracted
- (C) flat
- (D) awake
- (E) sleep

Ans : (B)

Directions—(Q. 13–17) Which of the phrases (A), (B), (C) and (D) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in **bold** in the sentence to make it grammatically correct ? If the sentence is correct as it is given and ‘No Correction is Required’, mark (E) as the answer.

13. The company has set up a foundation which helps students who do not have the necessary funds **to study ahead**.

- (A) further to study
- (B) of studying more
- (C) to study onward
- (D) for higher studies
- (E) No Correction Required

Ans : (D)

14. If this land is used to cultivate crops it will be **additionally source** of income for the villagers.

- (A) a source of additional
- (B) an additionally source
- (C) an additional source
- (D) additionally the source
- (E) No Correction Required

Ans : (C)

15. **Belonged to** this cadre, you are eligible for facilities such as free air travel and accommodation.

- (A) since you belong to
- (B) whoever belongs
- (C) for belonging to
- (D) to belong in
- (E) No Correction Required

Ans : (A)

16. The bank has hired a consultant who **will look into** any issues which arise during the merger.

- (A) is looking over
 - (B) will be looked after
 - (C) will look out
 - (D) looks down on
 - (E) No Correction Required
- Ans : (E)

17. I had severe doubts about **if I successfully** run a company, but my father encouraged me.

- (A) if I am successful in
- (B) how should I successfully
- (C) whether I could successfully
- (D) that I would succeed to
- (E) No Correction Required

Ans : (C)

Directions—(Q. 18–22) In each question below a sentence with four words printed in **bold** type is given. These are **lettered** as (A), (B), (C) and (D). One of these four words printed in **bold** may be either **wrongly spelt** or **inappropriate** in the context of the sentence. Find out the word which is wrongly spelt or inappropriate if any. The **letter** of that word is your answer. If all the words printed in bold are correctly spelt and also appropriate in the context of the sentence, mark (E) i.e. 'All Correct' as your answer.

18. RBI has **attempted** (A) to **spend** (B) **financial** (C) **awareness** (D) through this programme.

All Correct (E)

Ans : (B)

19. In order to **succeed** (A) it is **crucial** (B) for an organisation to **constantly** (C) **improve**. (D)

All Correct (E)

Ans : (E)

20. With some **assistance** (A) from her son she was **enable** (B) to **settle** (C) her **debts** (D) on time. All Correct (E)

Ans : (B)

21. Though the government **initiated** (A) a large **sum** (B) of money in the **scheme** (C) it was a **failure**. (D) All Correct (E)

Ans : (A)

22. We have prepared a **detailed** (A) report giving **various** (B) **solutions** (C) to **resort** (D) the problem. All Correct (E)

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 23–27) Rearrange the following **six** sentences (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

(a) I was pleased by their reaction.

(b) Writing my speech was easy, but I was unsure if I could motivate the employees to donate to

those affected by the earthquake.

(c) Instead of throwing out their unusable articles, they had transferred them to my office in the name of donations.

(d) When a reputed company invited me to deliver a lecture on Corporate Social Responsibility, I agreed.

(e) It was an affluent company and the well dressed employees who met me afterwards promised to send lots of donations to my office.

(f) What I saw however when I opened the bags of 'donations' they had sent shocked me.

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

(A) (b)

(B) (c)

(C) (d)

(D) (e)

(E) (f)

Ans : (A)

24. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement ?

(A) (a)

(B) (b)

(C) (c)

(D) (d)

(E) (e)

Ans : (E)

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

(A) (a)

(B) (b)

(C) (c)

(D) (d)

(E) (e)

Ans : (A)

26. Which of the following should be the **LAST (SIXTH)** sentence after rearrangement ?

(A) (b)

(B) (c)

(C) (d)

(D) (e)

(E) (f)

Ans : (B)

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

(A) (a)

(B) (b)

(C) (c)

(D) (d)

(E) (e)

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 28–32) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The **letter** of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (E).
(Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)

28. He has travelled (A) / all over the world (B) / yet he speaks (C) / several languages fluently.
(D) No error (E)

Ans : (C)

29. A successful company is (A) / any that makes a good (B) / profit and provides (C) / high returns to its shareholders. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (B)

30. The agreement on (A) / which all of us have (B) / worked so hard will (C) / be sign tomorrow. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (D)

31. It is necessarily to maintain (A) / a record of all transactions (B) / in case the auditors (C) / want to see it. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (A)

32. Very few young trainees (A) / willingly undertake (B) / a posting to a branch (C) / located in a rural area. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (E)

Directions—(Q. 33–40) 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.

Today, twenty-two years after the bank ...**(33)**..., it has over a thousand branches all over the country and the staff ...**(34)**... about twentythree lakh borrowers. We decided to operate ...**(35)**... from conventional banks who would ask their clients to come to their office. Many people in rural areas found this ...**(36)**.... Our bank is therefore based on the ...**(37)**... that people should not come to the bank but that the bank should go to the people. Our loans are also ...**(38)**... we give them for activities from candle making to tyre repair. We also keep ...**(39)**... checks on the borrower through weekly visits. We do this to make certain that the family of the borrower is ...**(40)**... from the loan.

33. (A) origin

(B) commence

(C) existed

(D) began

(E) inaugurated

Ans : (E)

- 34. (A) assemble
- (B) cope
- (C) interact
- (D) deal
- (E) handle

Ans : (E)

- 35. (A) differently
- (B) similar
- (C) reverse
- (D) opposite
- (E) identically

Ans : (A)

- 36. (A) worried
- (B) upset
- (C) panicking
- (D) anxious
- (E) threatening

Ans : (D)

- 37. (A) principle
- (B) discipline
- (C) opportunity
- (D) chance
- (E) advantage

Ans : (A)

- 38. (A) worth
- (B) vary
- (C) disburse
- (D) contrast
- (E) diver

Ans : (B)

- 39. (A) consistently
- (B) regular
- (C) often
- (D) frequently
- (E) daily

Ans : (B)

- 40. (A) benefiting
- (B) serving

(C) welfare
(D) obliged
(E) progress
Ans : (A)