

Canara Bank (Clerk) Exam., 2009
(Held on 29-3-2009)
English Language : Solved Paper

Directions—(Q. 1-15) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Long ago, the Kingdom of Gandhara was ruled by a just and good King. His subjects were very content, but as the King grew older, everyone wondered anxiously what would happen to the Kingdom. After all the King did not have any children who could take over the reins of the Kingdom.

Now, the King was an avid gardener and put lots of time and effort into tending his garden and planting the finest flowers, fruits and vegetables. One day, he proclaimed, “Tomorrow, I shall distribute seeds to the children of the Kingdom. The one who is able to grow the biggest, healthiest plant within three months will be the prince or the princess.” The next day, there was a long line of parents and children outside the palace. Everyone was eager to get a seed and have the opportunity to be the next King. A poor farmer’s son was among these children. Like the King, he too was fond of gardening. His backyard was full of beautiful plants. He took the seed from the King and planted it in a pot with great care. The weeks passed and he piled it with water and manure, but no plant appeared. He tried changing the soil and even transferred the seed to another pot, but at the end of three months, nothing had grown.

At last, the day came when the children had to go to the King to show him their plants. They started walking to the palace, dressed in their best, holding beautiful plants in their hands. The farmer’s son stood sadly, watching them go by. His father had watched him working hard with the seed and felt sorry for him. “Why don’t you go to the King with the empty pot ?” he suggested. “At least he will know you tried your best.” So the farmer’s son too wore his best clothes and joined the others outside the palace, holding his empty pot in his hand and ignoring the laughter of those who saw him. Soon the King arrived and began his inspection. “I have watered this beautiful flower with the water from the sacred river,” said one. “I have kept my plant in a beautiful glass house to protect it from bad weather,” said another. “I have spent all my spare time caring for this plant,” said a third. Thus the children came forward one by one holding flowers of different shades, which were both beautiful and healthy. The King however did not look happy. At the end of the line stood the farmer’s son, and when the King reached him, he stopped in surprise. “Child, why have you come with an empty pot ? Could you not grow anything ?”

The boy looked down and said, “Forgive me, Your Highness. I tried my best, I gave it the best soil and manure I had, but the plant would not grow.” The King’s face broke into a smile. He enveloped the farmer’s son in his arms and announced, “Here is the crown prince ! I had given everyone roasted seeds, which would never grow. I wanted to see which child would admit he or she had not been able to grow anything. Only this boy told the truth I am sure he will rule our Kingdom with integrity. “And that was what happened. When the King grew old and died many years later, the farmer’s son, who had learnt everything from him, came to the throne and ruled Gandhara justly.

1. Which of the following can be said about the King’s subjects ?
1. They were all prosperous and could afford fine clothes.
 2. They had lost confidence in the King’s ability to rule because he had grown old.
 3. They often requested the King to marry and start a family.
- (A) Only 1

- (B) Both 1 & 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 & 3
- (E) None of these

Ans : (E)

2. When the seed did not germinate after weeks' efforts why did the farmer's son change the soil ?

- (A) He was persevering by nature
- (B) He spent his spare time gardening instead of playing
- (C) He loved gardening but was no good at it
- (D) He wasted his opportunity to be King
- (E) He was the King's favourite subject

Ans : (A)

3. Why did the King choose the farmer's son as Gandhara's future King ?

- (A) The King realised that he had a good character and would make a worthy ruler
- (B) He knew that he could easily manipulate the farmer's son
- (C) He felt sorry for the farmer's son and wanted to give him an opportunity
- (D) To reward his honesty in not asking his parents for help to grow the plant
- (E) He was the one who pointed out the King's mistake of distributing roasted seeds

Ans : (A)

4. Why did the King distribute seeds to the children of his Kingdom ?

- (A) To share his love of gardening with them
- (B) To make sure that the future ruler had respect for all living things
- (C) It was a test to select the child most suited to be the next ruler
- (D) To see if they were ambitious and competed fairly
- (E) None of these

Ans : (C)

5. Why did the children bring beautiful plants to the palace ?

- (A) They wanted to gift them to the King for his garden
- (B) It was a sign of affection for the King who was retiring
- (C) Their parents had forced them to present flowers to the King
- (D) To show the King they were more suited than the farmer's son to rule
- (E) None of these

Ans : (D)

6. What excuse did the farmer's son give for not being able to grow a plant successfully ?

- (A) His father had refused to help him
- (B) The soil and fertilizer he had used were not suitable
- (C) He had shifted the seed while it was growing
- (D) There was something wrong with the seed
- (E) None of these

Ans : (D)

7. What was worrying the King's subjects ?

- (A) The King was too old to bear the burden of running a kingdom
- (B) The King devoted too much time to gardening

- (C) The King was sick and could die at any time
- (D) The King had no heir to the throne
- (E) The King had selected a farmer's son to be their King

Ans : (D)

8. Which of the following is TRUE in the context of the passage ?

- (A) The King deliberately roasted the seeds as he did not want to give up his throne
- (B) The King regarded honesty as an important trait for a ruler
- (C) Only boys were given the opportunity to prove they were worthy to rule
- (D) The King was angry that the farmer's son had come empty handed
- (E) The farmer knew why the seed given to his son would not grow

Ans : (B)

9. What made the King unhappy with the children ?

1. They had not realised that the seeds he had given them were roasted.
2. They had cheated by allowing their parents to grow their plants.
3. Since they had successfully grown plants he was forced to choose one of them as King.

- (A) Only 2
- (B) Both 1 & 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Only 1
- (E) None of these

Ans : (E)

10. How did the farmer deal with the fact that his son had not been able to grow anything ?

- (A) Being a farmer he was ashamed that his son could not cultivate a healthy plant
- (B) He was understanding, as it was impossible to grow a plant in three months
- (C) He was disappointed because his son would not get the chance to be King
- (D) He was sympathetic because his son had worked very hard
- (E) None of these

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 11–13) Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

11. Ignoring

- (A) Unaware
- (B) Delaying
- (C) Disregarding
- (D) Humiliating
- (E) Lacking

Ans : (C)

12. Enveloped

- (A) Surrounded
- (B) Included
- (C) Wrapped
- (D) Closed
- (E) Hid

Ans : (C)

13. Piled

(A) Handled

(B) Poured

(C) Utilised

(D) Provided

(E) Drowned

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 14–15) Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

14. Content

(A) Pitying

(B) Miserable

(C) Sorrow

(D) Unlucky

(E) Unfortunate

Ans : (B)

15. Avid

(A) Unenthusiastic

(B) Efficient

(C) Boring

(D) Impartial

(E) Incompetent

Ans : (A)

Directions—(Q. 16–20) Rearrange the following six sentences (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

(1) When this boy was twelve years old he attended a party given by his parents.

(2) A boy was considered a dunce and his usual place in class was standing in a corner as punishment.

(3) The boy timidly quoted the rest of the poem and named the author.

(4) The guest, a famous writer, was delighted and said “You are a bright boy who will achieve a lot one day”.

(5) This one word of encouragement changed the boy’s life—he went on to become a famous poet.

(6) One of the guests saw two lines of poetry underneath a painting and wanted to know who the poet was, but no one knew.

16. Which of the following should be the FIFTH sentence after rearrangement ?

(A) 2

(B) 3

(C) 4

(D) 5

(E) 6

Ans : (C)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (A) 2
 - (B) 3
 - (C) 4
 - (D) 5
 - (E) 6
- Ans : (E)

Directions—(Q. 21–25) 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.

21. It is impossible (A) to complete (B) the entire (C) project within the specified (D) time frame. All correct (E)

Ans : (E)

22. The Government is certain (A) to amend (B) the law to prevail (C) the crisis. (D) All correct (E)

Ans : (C)

23. Except (A) for a few, the majority (B) of our staff has been recruited (C) locally. (D) All correct (E)

Ans : (E)

24. They patiently (A) explained (B) the procedure (C) for applying (D) for a loan to the villagers. All

correct (E)
Ans : (D)

25. One can succeed (A) in business unless (B) one is prepared (C) to take risks. (D) All correct (E)
Ans : (A)

Directions—(Q. 26–30) 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.

26. In spite of trying his best, Karthik delivered whatever he had promised.
(A) was unable to deliver what
(B) delivered none of
(C) could not deliver
(D) cannot deliver however
(E) No correction required
Ans : (A)

27. It was very hot last year that the roads used to be empty in the afternoon.
(A) being so hot
(B) was so hot
(C) had been very hot
(D) was much hotter
(E) No correction required
Ans : (B)

28. The salaries we pay our employees are equal the ones that commercial banks pay theirs.
(A) are equally like
(B) were a like
(C) is similar to
(D) are equivalent to
(E) No correction required
Ans : (E)

29. To develop their problem solving skills trainees are encouraged to analyse situations and come to its own solutions.
(A) come up with their
(B) came forward with their
(C) come down with its
(D) come with its
(E) No correction required
Ans : (A)

30. Overcoming obstacles in the course of her job giving her a lot of self-confidence.
(A) is given her
(B) she has been given
(C) will give her
(D) by giving her
(E) No correction required

Ans : (C)

Directions—(Q. 31– 40) 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.)

31. Rajiv is the best person (A) / to advise you since (B) / he faced plenty of difficulty (C) / while setting up his business. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (C)

32. The University that (A) / I taught was (B) / located on the (C) / outskirts of the city. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (A)

33. Most of my (A) / co-workers have been (B) / transferred to various (C) / neighbourly districts. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (D)

34. Though my father spent (A) / a lot of money on (B) / our education he refused to (C) / give us no pocket money. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (D)

35. Often ideas and concepts (A) / are passed on from (B) / one generation to the next (C) / without being questioned. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (E)

36. Funds that are collected (A) / in the morning has (B) / to be disbursed as (C) / new loans by afternoon. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (B)

37. Your promotion depends (A) / on the number of (B) / projects your handling (C) / during the year. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (C)

38. Our team has spent (A) / the night entirely (B) / awake trying to decide (C) / what strategy to adopt. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (C)

39. I have finally managed (A) / to convince my parents (B) / to allow myself (C) / to study abroad. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (C)

40. When he took a loan (A) / for the first time (B) / he was so nervous that (C) / he repay it early. (D) No error (E)

Ans : (D)

Directions—(Q. 41–50) 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.

One day my son called me after his exams. I could make out from his voice that he was ...41... “The exam did not go so well. It was not that I did not know but I made a careless mistake.” I tried to ...42... him saying, “Don’t worry, you will do better next time”. He was not pleased to hear my words. “You don’t realize how competitive it is here and how difficult it is to ...43... anything.”

A few days later I got another call from him. “A ...44... thing happened”, he said. “When I got my paper I saw that I had ...45... marks for the question I had answered incorrectly. My friends ...46... me to keep quiet as the Professor must have made a mistake. But you taught me the value of honesty so I emailed him saying I did not ...47... the marks.” His reply was more surprising. “It was ...48,” he said. “My interaction with you throughout the year ...49... me that you knew how to solve the problem. That is the reason I gave you those marks.” I was happier about my son’s ...50... than his marks.

41. (A) Bother
(B) Sad
(C) Unwell
(D) Distress
(E) Confused
Ans : (B)

42. (A) Pity
(B) Forgive
(C) Console
(D) Cheer
(E) Sympathise
Ans : (C)

43. (A) Strive
(B) Triumph
(C) Succeed
(D) Want
(E) Achieve
Ans : (E)

44. (A) Thrilled
(B) Routine
(C) Disastrous
(D) Funny
(E) Different
Ans : (D)

45. (A) Assigned
(B) Awarded
(C) Obtain
(D) Received
(E) Given
Ans : (E)

46. (A) Suggested
(B) Advised
(C) Warn
(D) Made
(E) Recommended
Ans : (B)

47. (A) Deserve
(B) Qualify
(C) Need
(D) Receive
(E) Justify
Ans : (A)

48. (A) Knowing
(B) Mistaken
(C) Oversight
(D) Deliberate
(E) Intend
Ans : (D)

49. (A) Persuade
(B) Merited
(C) Convinced
(D) Proved
(E) Informed
Ans : (C)

50. (A) Value
(B) Moral
(C) Truth
(D) Honesty
(E) Potential
Ans : (D)