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PRACTICE QUESTION SET ON ENGLISH
LANGUAGE FOR IBPS PROBATIONARY OFFICER
EXAM 2012

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

It was in the offing. With shortages mounting across the board for water as they are for energy, it was only inevitable that the Central government would be stirred into starting a Bureau of Water Efficiency (BWE), much like the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) that was launched some years ago.

Early reports suggest that the draft norms for various sectors consuming water will be created by the BWE soon. The alarm bells have been ringing for some years now. Water availability per capita in India has fallen from about 5 million litres in the 1950s to 1.3 million litres in 2010-that's a staggering 75 per cent drop in 50 years. Nearly 60 percent of India's aquifers have slumped to critical levels in just the last 15 years. Thanks to the rate at which borewells are being plunged in every city with no law to ban such extraction, groundwater tables have depleted alarmingly.

The BEE's efforts in the last seven years have only been cosmetic. The bureau has looked at efficiency rating systems for white goods in the domestic sector and has not paid attention to the massive consumption of energy in metals manufacture, paper and textiles. These sectors are very intense in both energy and water consumption. But very little attention has been paid to the water and energy used per tonne of steel or cement or aluminium that we buy, and without significant changes in these areas, the overall situation is unlikely to change.

Use of water is inextricably interlinked with energy. One does not exist without the other. The BWE should steer clear of the early mistakes of BEE-of focusing on the 'softer targets' in the domestic sector. Nearly 80 per cent of fresh water is used by agriculture, with industry coming a close second. The domestic sector's consumption of fresh water is in single digit. So, the BWE's priority should be to look at measures that will get farmers and industrialists to follow good practices in water use. Water resources have to be made, by law, an indivisible national asset. The protection and withdrawal of this resource as well as its sustainable development are of general importance and, therefore, in the public interest. This will mean that individuals and organisations may own land but not water or the other resources that lie below the first 20 metres of the surface of those lands. Drilling of borewells into such 'national assets' will have to be banned, or at the very least they must be regulated. What would be more sensible for the new water bureau to do would be to look at some of the low-hanging fruits that can be plucked, and pretty quickly, with laws that can emanate from the Centre, without the risk of either dilution or inaction from state administrations. The other tactical approach that the BWE can adopt is to devise a policy that addresses the serious water challenge in industry segments across a swathe of companies: this will be easier-than taking on the more disparate domestic sector which hurts the water crisis less than industry. Implementing a law is more feasible when the concentration is dense and identifiable. Industry offers this advantage more than the domestic or the commercial sector of hotels and offices.

As for agriculture, though the country's water requirement is as high as 80 per cent, the growing of water within the loop in agriculture de-risks the challenge of any perceived deficit. Rice and wheat,

sugarcane are crops that need water-logging, which ensures groundwater restoration. Surface water evaporation doesn't amount to any more than 7-8 per cent and only strengthens precipitation and rainfall. Agriculture and water need is not quite as much a threat as industry and domestic sectors that account for the rest of the 20 per cent.

The primary challenge in industry and the building sector is that no conscious legal measures have been enacted that stipulate 'growing your own water' with measures that will 'put all water in a loop' in any residential or commercial building. This involves treating all used water to a grade that it can be 'upcycled' for use in flush tanks and for gardens across all our cities with the polluter owning the responsibility for treating and for reuse. The drop in fresh water demand can be dramatic with such upcycle, reuse and recycle of treated water. Water by itself, in industry and the domestic sector, is not as much a challenge as pollution of water. Not enough measures exist yet to ensure that such polluters shift the water back for reuse. If legislation can ensure that water is treated and reused for specific purposes within industry as well as in the domestic sector, this will make all the difference to the crisis on fresh water.

So is the case in industry, especially in sectors like textiles, aluminium and steel. Agriculture offers us the amusing irony of the educated urbanites dependent on cereals like rice and wheat that consume 4000 litres of water for every kilogramme, while the farmer lives on the more nutritious millets that consume less than half the quantity. Sugarcane consumes as much as 12,000 litres of water for a kilo of cane that you buy!

A listing of such correlations of water used by every product that we use in our daily lives will make much better sense than any elaborate rating system from the newly formed BWE. Such sensitising with concerted awareness campaigns that the new Bureau drives will impact the urban consumer more than all the research findings that experts can present. What is important for us is to understand the life-cycle impact in a way that we see the connect between a product that we use and the resources it utilises up to the point where we bring the visible connect to destruction of natural resources of our ecosystems.

1. How, according to the author, can the bureau sensitise the urban consumer about careful utilisation of water?

- (1) By encouraging them to consume more rice instead of millets daily and, thereby, reduce the amount of water consumption
- (2) By providing them more insight into the water consumption cycle of the textile, aluminium and steel industries
- (3) By making them aware of the linkages between water consumption for daily activities and the resource utilization and subsequent ecological destruction associated with it
- (4) By publishing research findings of experts in popular media whereby people gain awareness on the impact of water misuse

(5) By conducting elaborate drives which notify the urban population about the penalties levied on misuse of water resources

2. Why, according to the author, is the water consumption for agricultural activities the least risky?

(1) The proportion of water consumed for agricultural activities is much less as compared to that consumed for domestic and industrial purposes.

(2) Most farmers are aware of the popular methods of water conservation and hence do not allow wastage of water.

(3) Water is fairly recycled through groundwater restoration due to water-logging and surface water evaporation.

(4) Farmers in India mostly cultivate crops that require less amount of water.

(5) None of these

3. Which of the following is possibly the most appropriate , title for the passage?

(1) Water Challenges in the New Millennium

(2) The Bureau of Water Efficiency vs the Bureau of Energy Efficiency

(3) Unchecked Urban Consumption of Water

(4) Challenges of the Agricultural Sector and Water Resources

(5) The Route to Conservation of Water Resources

4. What does 'low-hanging fruits that can be plucked, and pretty quickly' mean in the context of the passage?

(1) The bureau should employ the cheapest methods possible to effectively control the current situation of improper usage of water resources.

(2) The bureau should target the industrial sector as well as the domestic sector to reduce water wastage.

(3) The bureau should target the agricultural sector only for producing quick results in reducing wastage of water.

(4) The bureau should ensure that all the state officials concerned with the measures are actively involved.

(5) The bureau should start with adopting measures which are simple to execute and produce immediate results in reducing water wastage.

5. Which of the following, according to the author, is/are the indication/s of a water crisis?

- (A) Many agrarian areas in the country are facing a drought-like situation.
 - (B) Almost three-fifths of the naturally available water has been reduced to a very critical level in a relatively short span of time.
 - (C) There has been a significant drop in the availability of water over the past fifty years.
- (1) Only (B)
 - (2) Only (A) and (C)
 - (3) Only (C)
 - (4) Only (B) and (C)
 - (5) All (A), (B) and (C)

6. The author suggests that the Bureau of Water Efficiency devise a strategy or make laws to meet water challenges in the industrial segment rather than in the domestic segment because

- (1) the industrial sector is the only one that is in a position to reduce its water consumption by a significant margin.
- (2) there is comparatively less serious water misuse in the domestic sector.
- (3) it would be easy to identify the consumption patterns in the industrial sector because of its density and visibility.
- (4) the industrial sector would be capable of paying the fines levied by the Bureau for water misuse whereas the domestic sector would be in no such position.
- (5) the industrial sector would be easier to manage in terms of making them understand the importance of water conservation.

7. Which of the following, according to the author, is/are the step/s that the Bureau of Water Efficiency can take to ensure proper utilisation of water resources?

- (A) Put in place measures that ensure proper water usage
 - (B) Concentrate on the water consumption patterns of the domestic sector alone
 - (C) Monitor carefully the activity of digging borewells
- (1) Only (A) and (C)
 - (2) Only (A) and (B)

- (3) Only (A)
- (4) Only (B) and (C)
- (5) All (A), (B) and (C)

8. Which of the following is true about the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in the context of the passage?

- (A) It failed to pay adequate attention to industries like metal, and textiles in terms of energy consumption.
- (B) It focused on rating systems for efficient use of goods in the domestic sector.
- (C) It mostly focused on the energy consumption in the domestic sector.

- (1) Only (A) and (C)
- (2) Only (A) and (B)
- (3) Only (A)
- (4) Only (B) and (C)
- (5) All (A), (B) and (C)

Directions (Q.9-12): Choose the word which is most similar in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

9. Cosmetic

- (1) Enhance
- (2) Beauty
- (3) Augmentative
- (4) Superficial
- (5) Aesthetic

10. Staggering

- (1) Weaving
- (2) Astounding
- (3) Lurching
- (4) Stumbling

(5) Unsteady

11. Conscious

(1) Unknown

(2) Mindful

(3) Self-aware

(4) Awake

(5) Alert

12. Dramatic

(1) Remarkable

(2) Moving

(3) Theatrical

(4) Histrionic

(5) Staged

Directions (Q.13-15): Choose the word which is in MOST OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in BOLD as used in the passage.

13. Intense

(1) Smooth

(2) Serious

(3) Low

(4) Diluted

(5) Jovial

14. Tactical

(1) unplanned

(2) uniform

(3) devious

(4) premeditated

(5) deformed

15. Inevitable

(1) Certain

(2) Unforeseeable

(3) Unavoidable

(4) Inescapable

(5) Predictable

Directions (Q. 16-20): 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 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.

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

(1) F

(2) D

(3) C

(4) G

(5) B

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directions (Q.21-25): 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, (21) the government announces that new permits for ration shops will be given out, there is frenzy in the market to grab one of these. (22)? The answer is obvious: the business is not for the honest and if one knows the (23), 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 (24) 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 (25) on their entitlements.

21.

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

22.

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

23.

- (1) lying
- (2) people
- (3) sprouting

(4) hard work

(5) ropes

24.

(1) attempt

(2) waging

(3) winning

(4) expecting

(5) trying

25.

(1) harping

(2) discussing

(3) realising

(4) drawing

(5) giving

Directions (Q.26 to 40) 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 per cent, 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.

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

29. xxx.com are the

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

30. The group buying model certainly did not start with

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

31. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the Russian proverb being quoted?

- (1) It is better to rent a house than to buy it
- (2) Don't buy a single fiat, buy multiple flats
- (3) Fools build houses, wise-people live in them
- (4) Buy house after negotiating the deal
- (5) None of the above

32. Which Of the following is' one of the questions posed in the passage?

- (1) Is group-buying model a temporary fad
- (2) Is the builder offering you the best inventory
- (3) Should we buy a house or the neighbourhood
- (4) Are present market conditions conducive for this business
- (5) Speculators is Group Buyers

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

- (1) The buyers, though have to pay higher fee and price, get their dream neighbourhood
- (2) The customer 'buy-in' model is not dependant on market conditions
- (3) Group buying companies don't buy with the same objective as that of speculators
- (4) The builders/developers offer the best available property to the group buyers
- (5) The speculators generally pay 30-40 per cent of the property value upfront even before the project gets started

34. In Which of the following situations, Customer 'buy-in' model may not work?

- (1) Buyer's market
- (2) When markets are booming with ample supply
- (3) When there is short supply
- (4) When houses are comparatively cheap
- (5) It is a mode for all seasons

35. Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?

- (1) The speculators also buy in bulk
- (2) Social media network is used for marketing group buying
- (3) The group buying companies take a transaction fee from both buyers as well as developers
- (4) The speculators get a-better deal in terms of discounts as compared to that of other group buying companies
- (5) The present conditions, as given in the passage, are not so good for developers of real estate

Directions (Q.36 to 38) Choose the word(s) which is most nearly the same in meaning of the word/group of words printed in bold, as used in the passage.

36. Dictate

- (1) Read
- (2) Manipulate
- (3) Speak
- (4) Wish
- (5) Control

37. Catching on

- (1) Continue on
- (2) Get interested
- (3) Enthusiastic about
- (4) Become popular
- (5) Get involved

38. Fad

- (1) Period
- (2) Trend
- (3) Focus
- (4) Luxury
- (5) Face

Directions (Q.39 to 40) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold, as used in the passage.

39. Astute

- (1) Intelligent
- (2) Sharp
- (3) Insider

(4) Statute

(5) Naive

40. Integrated

(1) Inorganic

(2) Refreshed

(3) Isolated

(4) Volatile

(5) Impersonal

Directions (Q.41 to 45) 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.

41. 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

42. 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

43. 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

44. 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

45. 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.46 to 50) In each of these questions, two sentences I and II are given, Each sentence has a blank in it. Five words (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are suggested, Out of these, only one fits at both the places in the context of each sentence. Number of that word is the answer.

46. I. He is ___ with whatever little he has.

II. They kept the ___ of the communication a secret.

- (1) happy
- (2) matter
- (3) gist
- (4) content
- (5) sense

47. I. It is hard to believe the ___ of operations involved in this activity.

II. The map is drawn to a ____ of 1 inch to 50 km.

- (1) magnitude
- (2) size
- (3) scale
- (4) proportion
- (5) Significance

48. I. Heavy snow did ____ the rescue efforts.

II. The food was kept in a ____ .

- (1) delay
- (2) bundle
- (3) basket
- (4) hamper
- (5) holder

49. I. They left ____ after breakfast.

II. It is difficult to find a ____ person for this job.

- (1) right
- (2) immediately
- (3) suitable
- (4) best
- (5) soon

50. I. He would always do ____ was told by his superiors.

II. He appeared on stage ____ a narrator of the drama.

- (1) as
- (2) what
- (3) about

(4) whatever

(5) always

Directions-(Q. 51-60) 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.

51. What is responsible for the increased demand amongst consumers for certain food stuff ?

- (1) There has been an increase in the wholesale supplies of this food stuff
- (2) The vegetables in the market are very highly priced
- (3) There has been an increase in the income of people
- (4) There is a lack of availability of vegetables in the market
- (5) There has been a surge in population

52. Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?

- (1) The overall inflation is not as bad as the food inflation in India
- (2) Help from other countries to counter food inflation has proved to be quite encouraging
- (3) Government is banning the export of certain types of vegetables in order to check the food inflation
- (4) Highly priced vegetables are mostly responsible for the increased food inflation
- (5) All the above statements are true

53. Which of the following is the reason for increase in food vegetable prices?

- 1. Bad weather
- 2. Land restrictions
- 3. Poor infrastructure for storage and transportation.

- (1) Only 2
- (2) Only 1 and 3
- (3) Only 1 and 2
- (4) Only 2 and 3
- (5) All 1, 2 and 3

54. Which of the following is/are true in the context of the passage?

- 1. The interest rates are being raised in India.
- 2. India is witnessing a steady economic growth.
- 3. It has been proven that the food inflation is mainly because of hoarding.

- (1) All 1, 2 and 3
- (2) Only 1 and 2
- (3) Only 3
- (4) Only 2 and 3
- (5) None is true

55. Which of the following is possibly the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (1) Food Inflation in India
- (2) Of Onions and Vendors
- (3) Food Deficit Worldwide
- (4) Food Imports in India
- (5) Benefits to Indian Consumers

56. 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.

57. 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

58. 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

59. 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

60. 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. 61-65) 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.

61. 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.

- (1) made a bee's line for
- (2) make bees lined to
- (3) made bee -Tine to
- (4) make bee - line to
- (5) No correction required

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

- (1) nick of time
- (2) nicked time
- (3) nick of timeliness
- (4) nick and time
- (5) No correction required

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

- (1) in ninth cloud
- (2) on nine clouds
- (3) a cloudy nine
- (4) cloud on nine
- (5) No correction required

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

- (1) pass to bucking
- (2) passing buck
- (3) passing the buck
- (4) pass buck
- (5) No correction required

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

- (1) rake his brain
- (2) racked his brains
- (3) racked brains
- (4) raked brain
- (5) No correction required

Directions-(Q. 66-70) 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.

66. 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

67. 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

68. 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

69. ____ 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

70. 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