

Direction (1-2): In each of the following questions given below you have to select the phrase/word that can be a connector/ (STARTER) from the given three options that can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.

Q1. A. A new survey by HSBC has found a majority of the Indian urban middle class to be positive about the next 12 months.

B. The majority of the Indian urban middle class is found to be positive about the next 12 months in spite of the concerns about a slowdown.

- (i) In spite of the concerns-----
 - (ii) Notwithstanding the concerns about a -----
 - (iii) After being positive about about the next -----
- (a) Only (iii)
(b) Both (ii) and (iii)
(c) Only (i)
(d) Both (i) and (ii)
(e) All of the above

Q2. A. India being home to some of the worst mine disasters, such as Chasnala near Dhanbad in 1975 in which more than 370 people were killed

B. The full spectrum of mining activity should be tightly regulated as in areas like Dhanbad in 1975 more than 370 people were killed.

- (i) Although-----
 - (ii) For many years, India has been a home to-----
 - (iii) Notwithstanding-----
- (a) Both (i) and (ii)
(b) Both (ii) and (iii)
(c) Only (ii)
(d) All of the above
(e) None of the above

Directions (3-5): In the question given below two statements are given which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Connect them by choosing one of the three words given below the statements in the best possible way without changing the intended meaning. Choose the best possible word(s)/ phrase as your answer accordingly from the options to form a correct, coherent sentence.

Q3. A. Policymakers need to be careful not to take foreign investors for granted.

B. The return of foreign capital is obviously a good sign for the Indian economy.

- (i) However,-----
- (ii) But the-----
- (iii) Like-----



- (a) Both (i) and (ii)
- (b) Only (i)
- (c) All of the above
- (d) Only (ii)
- (e) None of the above

Q4. A. Foreign investors seem to have rediscovered India.

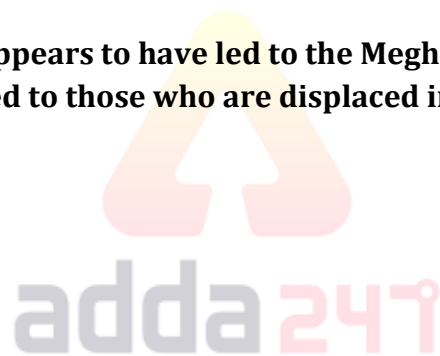
B. The inflow of foreign capital into India's stock market in March 2019 hit a high of \$4.89 billion, the biggest foreign inflow into Indian stocks since February 2012.

- (i) Indian Stocks since-----
 - (ii) Which can be proved by the fact that -----
 - (iii) As-----
- (a) Only (iii)
 - (b) Only (ii)
 - (c) Both (ii) and (iii)
 - (d) All of the above
 - (e) None of the above

Q5. A. Unapproved work, which appears to have led to the Meghalaya accident, cannot continue.

B. Employment should be provided to those who are displaced in the Meghalaya accident.

- (i) Though-----
 - (ii) As if-----
 - (iii) Also -----
- (a) Only (i)
 - (b) Only (ii)
 - (c) Both (ii) and (iii)
 - (d) None of the above
 - (e) Only (iii)



Directions (6-10): In each of the questions given below an incomplete sentence which must be filled/completed with one of the sentences/words given below i.e. one of the sentences/words can be fit into the given blanks. Choose the correct option and complete the given sentences.

Q6. Official inquiries ----- mines, including Chasnala, have shown serious shortcomings in safety management.

- (a) into flooding disasters at approved
- (b) into flooding disasters at approve
- (c) into flooding disasters at approving
- (d) into flooding disasters at approves
- (e) None of the above

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Q7. A study on three big flooding accidents published in 2016 by the IIT-Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, concluded that the official approach of fixing responsibility on human error was flawed, ----- root cause.

- (a) since it did not tried to identify the
- (b) since it did not try too identify the
- (c) since it did not try to identify the
- (d) since it did not trying to identify the
- (e) None of the above

**Q8. Laws seeking to regulate online activity, especially on social media, -----
- two fundamental rights: free speech and privacy.**

- (a) will have too be tested against
- (b) will have to been tested against
- (c) will had to be tested against
- (d) will have to be tested against
- (e) None of the above

Q9. Statutory norms relating to data protection ----- citizens from any breach of their informational privacy but attempts to regulate online content are seen with suspicion.

- (a) are seen as essential to protect
- (b) are seen as essential too protect
- (c) are seen as essential to protecting
- (d) are seen as essential to protected
- (e) None of the above

Q10. While the exercise to regulate online content is necessary, ----- framing rules, a balance is struck between legitimate public interest and individual rights.

- (a) it's is important that while
- (b) its is important that while
- (c) it is important that while
- (d) it is importance that while
- (e) None of the above

Directions (11-15): In each of the questions given below a phrase/idiom is given in BOLD and five options are given below it. You have to choose the option which best describes the meaning of the phrase/idiom. If none of the given options is your answer, select (e) i.e. 'None of these' as your answer choice.

Q11. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

- (a) To catch a bird
- (b) What you have is worth more than what you might have later
- (c) What you have is not worth more than what you might have later
- (d) What you have can buy you a bird cage.
- (e) None of the above

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Q12. A snowball effect

- (a) Events have momentum and build upon each other
- (b) Events never build upon each other
- (c) To play with friends in snow
- (d) To make a snowman
- (e) None of the above

Q13. The pot calling the kettle black

- (a) To pour tea from a black kettle
- (b) To make tea
- (c) Someone criticizing someone else he is just as bad
- (d) Someone appreciating someone else's beauty
- (e) None of the above

Q14. Shape up or ship out

- (a) Work less or less
- (b) Work better or leave
- (c) Buy a ship or leave
- (d) To learn how to row a boat
- (e) None of the above

Q15. To buy a pig in the poke

- (a) To buy something after full inspection
- (b) That a buyer bought a pig
- (c) That a buyer purchased something without inspecting it first
- (d) To steal your neighbour's belongings
- (e) None of the above

Directions (16-20): In each of the questions given below an incomplete sentence which must be filled/completed with one of the sentences/phrases given below i.e. one of the sentences/phrases can be fit into the given blanks. Choose the correct option and complete the given sentences.

Q16. In 1962, a meteorite ----- 21 kg was found at Efremovka, now in Kazakhstan.

- (a) weighs
- (b) weigh
- (c) weighing
- (d) measuring
- (e) None of the above

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Q17. ----- the first-formed solids of the solar system were the calcium aluminium-rich inclusions (CAI).

- (a) Amongst
- (b) Furious
- (c) Between
- (d) Among
- (e) None of the above

Q18. The CAIs become the refractory components within meteorites with irregular shape and are predominantly ----- of oxides and silicates of calcium and aluminium.

- (a) composition
- (b) composed
- (c) consists
- (d) composes
- (e) None of the above

Q19. The first suggestion of irradiation by the Sun as a source of elements found in early solar system solids came from a ----- of the beryllium-10 radio nuclide in the Allende meteorite.

- (a) theories
- (b) studied
- (c) studies
- (d) study
- (e) None of the above

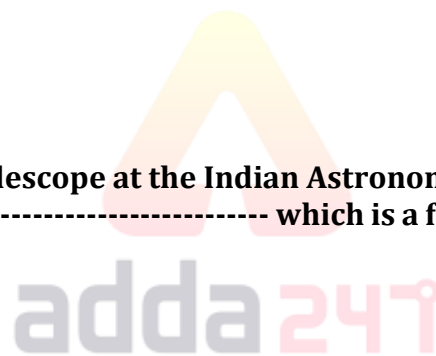
Q20. The 0.7 m GROWTH-India telescope at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in Hanle, Ladakh, has made its first science ----- which is a follow-up study of a nova explosion.

- (a) observation
- (b) observe
- (c) gather
- (d) look
- (e) None of the above

Directions (20-25)- Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed.

(A)For the first time, the blood biochemical parameters of Indian adolescents have been ----- on a large scale and a normative range has been ----- at. Since biochemical parameters for Indian adolescents were not available, doctors had to rely on adult normative range. This is scientifically not correct as children are **(B)**----- different and their response to treatments can vary when compared to adults.

Some of the blood biochemical parameters studied are lipid profile (total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides), plasma glucose, insulin, HbA1c, urea, and creatinine. The study involved over 7,600 Indian adolescents (over 3,300 boys and about 4,300 girls) aged between 11–17 years from Delhi. Besides studying the blood biochemistry, the researchers from the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) looked at the *variation* in the parameters with respect to gender and age during adolescence.



The **normative** range for fasting plasma glucose for Indian adolescents was found to be slightly lower than Nigerians and Croatians. Similarly, for plasma insulin, the range is less than Canadian adolescents. **(C)The mean plasma glucose and insulin levels were found to be lower than the values measures earlier by others in a smaller number (695) of Indian adolescents.**

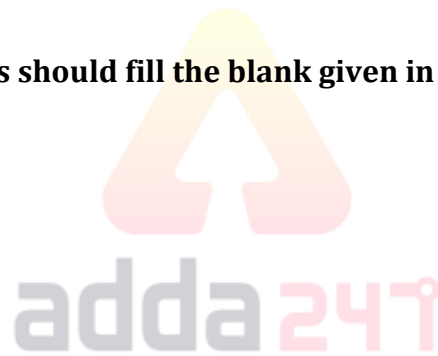
Q21. In the passage given, a sentence (A) is given in BOLD with two blanks. Corresponding to the sentence two columns are given with three words in each column. Which combination of words from the two columns will perfectly fit into the blanks to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful.

COLUMN I	COLUMN II
A. measure	D. arrived
B. calculated	E. arriving
C. measured	F. transpires

- (a) A-D
- (b) B-D and C-D
- (c) B-D, C-D, B-F and C-F
- (d) C-E
- (e) B-E and B-F

Q22. Which of the following words should fill the blank given in (B) to make it contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) Immunologically
- (b) Immune
- (c) Genetic
- (d) Genetically
- (e) None of the above



Q23. In the passage given, a sentence (C) is given in BOLD. There may or may not be an error in one part of the sentence. Choose the part which has an error in it as your answer. If there is no error then choose option (e) as your answer.

- (a) The mean plasma glucose and
- (b) insulin levels were found to be lower
- (c) than the values measures earlier by
- (d) others in a smaller number (695) of Indian adolescents.
- (e) No error

Q24. Which of the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word NORMATIVE given in BOLD in the above passage?

- (a) Eulogize
- (b) Random
- (c) Unauthorize
- (d) Prescriptive
- (e) Flexible

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Q25. Which of the following is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word **VARIATION** given in **BOLD** in the above passage?

- (a) Abnormality
- (b) Alteration
- (c) Regularity
- (d) Innovation
- (e) Fluctuation

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S1. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (d) is correct here. "In spite of the concerns", "Notwithstanding concerns about a" are the correct starters for the above given sentences. The sentences formed are:

- (i) "In spite of the concerns about a slowdown, a new survey by HSBC has found a majority of the Indian urban middle class to be positive about the next 12 months."
 (ii) "Notwithstanding concerns about a slowdown, a new survey by HSBC has found a majority of the Indian urban middle class to be positive about the next 12 months."

S2. Ans.(e)

Sol. None of the above.

S3. Ans.(a)

Sol. Option (a) is correct here. The sentences formed by using the connectors "However,---" and "But the---" are:

- (i) "The return of foreign capital is obviously a good sign for the Indian economy , however, Policymakers need to be careful not to take foreign investors for granted."
 (ii) "The return of foreign capital is obviously a good sign for the Indian economy but the Policymakers need to be careful not to take foreign investors for granted."

S4. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (c) is correct here. The sentences formed by using the connectors "Which can be proved by the fact that ---" and "As----" are:

- (i) "Foreign investors seem to have rediscovered India which can be proved by the fact that the inflow of foreign capital into India's stock market in March 2019 hit a high of \$4.89 billion, the biggest foreign inflow into Indian stocks since February 2012."
 (ii) "Foreign investors seem to have rediscovered India as the inflow of foreign capital into India's stock market in March 2019 hit a high of \$4.89 billion, the biggest foreign inflow into Indian stocks since February 2012."

S5. Ans.(e)

Sol. Option (e) is the correct choice here. The sentence formed by using the connector "Also-----" is:

"Unapproved work, which appears to have led to the Meghalaya accident, cannot continue also, employment should be provided to those who are displaced in the Meghalaya accident."

S6. Ans.(a)

Sol. "into flooding disasters at approved" is the correct choice here and will make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct. Since the sentence is in past tense, we will use 'approved'.

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S7. Ans.(c)

Sol. "since it did not try to identify the" is the correct choice here and will make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct. With 'did' we always use present tense, so it will be 'try' and 'to' takes the first form of the verb.

S8. Ans.(d)

Sol. "will have to be tested against" is the correct choice here and will make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

S9. Ans.(a)

Sol. "are seen as essential to protect" is the correct choice here and will make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct. 'To' takes the first form of verb, so we will use 'protect'.

S10. Ans.(c)

Sol. "it is important that while" is the correct choice here and will make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush: What you have is worth more than what you might have later.

S12. Ans.(a)

Sol. A snowball effect: Events have momentum and build upon each other.

S13. Ans.(c)

Sol. The pot calling the kettle black: Someone criticizing someone else he is just as bad.

S14. Ans.(b)

Sol. Shape up or ship out: Work better or leave.

S15. Ans.(c)

Sol. To buy a pig in the poke: That a buyer purchased something without inspecting it first.

S16. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Weighing' is the correct fit for the blank here and it means to have a specified weight.

S17. Ans.(d)

Sol. 'Among' is the correct fit for the blank here.

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S18. Ans.(b)

Sol. 'Composed' is the correct fit for the blank here and it means to consist of.

S19. Ans.(d)

Sol. 'Study' is the correct fit for the blank here.

S20. Ans.(a)

Sol. 'Observation' is the correct fit for the blank here and it means the action or process of closely observing or monitoring something or someone.

S21. Ans.(b)

Sol. B-D and C-D are the correct combinations here.

S22. Ans.(a)

Sol. 'Immunologically' is the correct fit for the blank.

S23. Ans.(c)

Sol. The error is in option (c). It should be 'measured' instead of 'measures' as the sentence is in past tense.

S24. Ans.(d)

Sol. 'Prescriptive' is the synonym here and it means that prescribes; giving directions or injunctions.

S25. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Regularity' is the antonym here and it means usual; normal; customary.





Directions (1 to 5): In each of the following questions given below there are two blanks, each blank indicates that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank which best fits to the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. There has been a divergence _____ the bank's disclosed non-performing assets (NPAs) for fiscal year 2015-16 and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) assessment, _____ to under-provisioning.

- (A) Over, optimum
- (B) During, unremarkable
- (C) Among, unrivaled
- (D) Between, leading
- (E) Of, incomparable

2. As a _____ regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken strong corrective steps and what we have are well-regulated, completely dematerialized and smooth functioning capital markets, which _____ confidence.

- (A) Fanatical, dissuade
- (B) Passive, impel
- (C) Proactive, inspire
- (D) Vigorous, instigate
- (E) Effective, enervate

3. As any business strategy professor will tell you, when customers _____ the products to be similar, price (in this case discounts) _____ the key differentiator.

- (A) Descry, sets
- (B) Acknowledge, receives
- (C) Appreciate gives
- (D) Perceive, becomes
- (E) Understand, remains

4. The official said daily price change will _____ the big leaps in rates that need to be effected at the end of the fortnight, making the consumer more _____ to market dynamics.

- (A) Remove, aligned
- (B) Blemish, supportive
- (C) Transfer, coarse
- (D) Fasten, organized
- (E) Withdraw, askew

5. The apex court has created room for a national debate on personal law cutting across religions focusing on the _____ gender bias they propagate, sending a clear message for politicians to rise above their _____ positions.

- (A) Expected, objective
- (B) Fortuitous, adherent
- (C) Certain, neutral

- (D) Necessary, adversary
(E) Inevitable, partisan

Directions (6 to 10): In the following passage, some of the words have been left out, each of which is indicated by a number. Find the suitable word from the options given against each number and fill up the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningfully complete.

The number of influenza A (H1N1) virus cases and deaths (6) _____ from across India this year has already crossed 19,000 and 900, respectively. These are lower than the 2015 toll of 32,000 cases and 2,000 deaths, but the revived spread is __ (7) _____. In the last month or so there has been a (8) _____ increase in the number of cases and deaths — over 6,000 and 300. Gujarat is the worst (9) _____, with about 250 deaths recorded so far: Rajasthan, Punjab and Maharashtra and Delhi too have been badly hit. The number of H1N1 cases in the southern States is also high (10) _____ to last year, with Tamil Nadu reporting nearly 3,000 cases about a month ago.

- 6.**
(A) Circulated (B) Reported
(C) Registered (D) Regarded
(E) Considered

- 7.**
(A) Depressing (B) Shocking
(C) Striking (D) Alarming
(E) Oppressing

- 8.**
(A) Explicit (B) Sharp
(C) Strict (D) Narrow
(E) Specific

- 9.**
(A) Reflected (B) Immunized
(C) Sensitized (D) Implicated
(E) Affected

- 10.**
(A) Resembled (B) Compared
(C) Matched (D) Approached
(E) Specified

Directions (11 to 15): In the following question four sentences are given. Identify the sentence that is incorrect in terms of grammar. If all the sentences are correct then choose option (E) as your answer.

- 11.**
(A) I am looking forward to making my findings useful to the community in the field of medicine.
(B) But what if computing power rose on a mind-boggling scale in a short period of time?
(C) The zeal with which researchers are developing quantum computers could change cryptography as we know it.
(D) I had only looked upon Deeksha, the grand-daughter of Kailas, as somewhat worthless commodity in the marriage market.
(E) All are correct

- 12.**
(A) The two poles of the sphere represent the states one and zero.
(B) His face beamed over with pride as he related all manner of praises which he had been good enough to utter.
(C) To better understand this, consider the case of a coin flipped in the air.
(D) The website or entity, with which you want to transact, generates a public key, which is an extremely large number.

(E) All are correct

13.

(A) He saw them as vehicles to transport and truly immerse people into a story.

(B) Focus on building new, different content that sets you apart from the rest.

(C) YouTube does provide an option to control ads based on sensitive categories.

(D) Now, I earn enough to buy myself a Tata Nano every month.

(E) All are correct

14.

(A) But I realised that I needed to get serious about video and audio quality for the kind of audience I was trying to attract.

(B) YouTube monetisation isn't a very complicated process.

(C) It is believed that an average Indian earns much to maintain an honourable life.

(D) It took two unsuccessful years for me to reach this third successful year.

(E) All are correct

15.

(A) Monetising gives financial stability and added investment in future content, which in turn improves the quality of the channel as a whole?

(B) Google does not ask you to produce any specific kind of videos.

(C) It's not as easy as everyone thinks, but if you enjoy what you are doing you don't feel its work.

(D) The rival countries fretted and fumed before the war finally broke out.

(E) All are correct

Directions (16 to 20): Rearrange the following FIVE sentences in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the following questions

A. The Centre has been supportive of higher returns through the Minimum Support Price mechanism and additional bonuses have been announced by States such as Madhya Pradesh for procurement, but these have helped mainly rice and wheat.

B. The forecast of a normal monsoon has brought relief all around.

C. From a water management perspective, though, this trend has led to a skew towards these crops, which are heavily dependent on groundwater.

D. For farmers, the India Meteorological Department's estimate that rainfall during the summer, between June and September, will be 97% of the 50-year average of 89 cm, is bound to raise fresh expectations.

E. This is the third year in a row that they can look forward to a high output for a variety of crops, although fiscal realities have come in the way of realising higher farm incomes.

16. Which of the following is the **LAST** sentence after rearrangement?

(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) E (E) F

17. Which of the following is the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

(A) B (B) A (C) D (D) G (E) F

18. Which of the following is the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D (E) E

19. Which of the following is the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D (E) F

20. Which of the following is the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

(A) A (B) B (C) C (D) D (E) E

Directions (21 to 25): In the Questions given below, there are two statements; each statement consists of a blank. You have to choose the option which provides the correct set of words that fits in the blanks in both the statements appropriately making them meaningful and grammatically correct.

21.

I. It is an/a _____ venture to serve one's country in the armed forces.

II. His literary and scientific reputation speedily brought him _____ recognition.

- (A) Honourable (B) Persistence
(C) Boring (D) Jocular
(E) None of these

22.

I. A _____ of his stature should not shy away from social criticism.

II. He is one of the greatest _____ India has ever produced.

- (A) Vacuum (B) Novelist
(C) Processing (D) Keys
(E) None of these

23.

I. The first time someone _____ candy for me was when I was six years old.

II. I _____ a new mobile phone.

- (A) Bring (B) Forth
(C) Suffer (D) Bought
(E) None of these

24.

I. I do not come from a _____ family.

II. We are greatly _____ that we have the Union minister among us today.

- (A) Generic (B) Books
(C) Possibility (D) Privileged
(E) None of these

25.

I. I _____ my seer into an eternity called oblivion.

II. The men ran in but the leopard _____ them into the house.

- (A) Followed (B) Pretension
(C) Magnanimous (D) Sought
(E) None of these

Directions (26 to 27): In each of the questions given below a sentence is given in which some parts are given in bold which are grammatically correct. The other three parts of the sentence may or may not be grammatically correct. The sentence is then followed by three alternatives for the parts of the sentence which is not given in bold which may replace the incorrect portion. Choose the alternative(s) which will replace the incorrect part in the sentence to make it grammatically and contextually correct.

26. India's supreme court has banned the sale of fireworks (a) / in Delhi during the upcoming Diwali festival (b) / in hopes to prevent the spike in toxic air pollution levels (c) / **that left the city sheeted in toxic smog** (d) / forcing the closure of schools, power stations and construction sites last year. (e)

- (I) In Delhi within the upcoming Diwali festival
(II) In hopes of prevent the spike in toxic air pollution levels
(III) Forcing the closure with schools, power stations and construction sites last year
(A) Only (I) (B) Only (II)
(C) Both (I)&(II) (D) Only (III)
(E) All of the above

27. The Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has asked the Catalan government to clarify (a) / whether it had declared independence (b) / **as he considers the unprecedented step** (c) / of suspending the

region's autonomy (d) / **and imposing direct rule from Madrid.** (e)

(I) The Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy had asked the Catalan government to clarify

(II) Whether it has declared independence

(III) With suspending the region's autonomy

(A) Only (I) (B) Only (II)

(C) Both (I) & (II) (D) Only (III)

(E) All of the above

Directions (28 to 30): In each of the following questions a short passage is given with one of the lines in the passage missing and represented by a blank. Select the best out of the five answer choices given, to make the passage complete and coherent (coherent means logically complete and sound).

28. Comparisons are, of course, silly and dicey, but one can hazard that Arrow's achievements were in some ways arguably greater than Samuelson's. Samuelson's many contributions helped us think through the first principles of many issues in economics — public goods, taxation, savings, trade, consumer preference, pensions, and finance. Arrow's two stunning contributions (both theoretical) in some ways both built and undermined all of politics and all of (market) economics. Samuelson made mega-contributions, Arrow made meta-contributions.

_____.

(A) The Arrow-Samuelson comparison is interesting for another reason: Family connections.

(B) The work of Arrow and many others showed how such self-interested individual behaviour could produce outcomes that had broadly desirable social virtues.

(C) If you start with individual preferences, it is very difficult (or impossible) to come up with a rule (say majority voting) that

aggregates these preferences and produces a societal preference that can satisfy some basic conditions.

(D) But this work showed how demanding were the conditions for the market system.

(E) Samuelson's related to one discipline, Arrow's transcended two.

29. Monetary policy makers concentrate on core inflation because it is a good yardstick for measuring "sustainable inflation": Which means that core inflation has to be correctly measured? Unfortunately, core inflation is mis-measured in India because the CPI for Fuel and Light includes kerosene and electricity, but excludes petrol. True core would exclude food, fuel and petrol. The reason monetary policy should be concerned with true core is because the excluded items are broadly outside the influence of monetary policy.

_____.

(A) A true core price index can easily be constructed by excluding the effects of petrol consumption from the transport and communication (TC) basket (TC has a weight of 8.59 per cent in the CPI and petrol consumption weight is 2.4 per cent), and adding it to the basket of Fuel.

(B) The correct and incorrect core inflation series, along with petrol price inflation, are reported in the chart.

(C) These facts counter the post-truth core inflation scenario painted by the RBI. (D) For example, it is a bit difficult to argue that the RBI's repo rate policy can affect OPEC's pricing policy for oil!

(E) The RBI is well aware of the problem of wrongly measured core inflation in India.

30. The analogy of theatre commands of the US/China is misleading as it would only address the "under command" syndrome of the ground-based forces in India. The

truism that “air power is indivisible” and works best under an airman should not be violated. Since India has a status quoist stance on boundary matters, the blocking of air assets by splitting them under theatre commanders would be sub-optimal. _____ . Both would be unwieldy considering the diverse requirements of equipment and training for troops (desert, plains and hills) — so more (smaller) commands would be required, bifurcating air assets further, reducing their potency.

(A) Joint procurement, commanding future commands like cyber, space and special forces and a role in budgeting could be the starting point.

(B) If one were to follow the US/China model, then there would be just two “theatres” — the Northern and Western.

(C) At the operational level, war is directed by regional command headquarters which, in the case of the army and navy, are terrestrial/surface combatants.

(D) A Su-30 from Pune can address maritime threats down south as well as those across the Thar desert.

(E) Decisive political decision-making is the need of the hour if we want to move forward.

Directions (31 to 40): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions

Skill development has emerged as a key strategy to realize the potential of a young workforce with an average age of 29, by enhancing their employability. The National Skill Development Mission launched by the Union government envisions skilling at scale with speed and standards, with a focus on strengthening institutional training, infrastructure, convergence, training of trainers, overseas employment, sustainable

livelihoods and leveraging public infrastructure. The national policy for skill development and entrepreneurship 2015 provides an enabling framework to realize this vision. The policy framework outlines the paradigms and enablers to realize the potential of India’s demographic advantage by addressing challenges such as aspirations and mobilization of youth, quality and relevance of training; access to training, inclusivity and leveraging available technology. Yet, several challenges remain for skill development in India. First, the huge proportion of informally trained workers who form a part of the informal sector, where skill training is generally carried out through individual learning, observation, or a transfer of skills from a master craftsman to an apprentice. The proportion of the formally trained in India is low at 4.69% of the total workforce compared to countries like Germany (75%) and South Korea (96%). Recognition of prior learning (RPL) has been introduced in India to facilitate an assessment and certification of the skills acquired by the individual through experience, observation and self-learning in order to give him/her an edge in career advancement. The mismatch between skill, academic training and employment has widened, leading to a situation where, on one hand, employers are unable to find appropriately trained people, and on the other, the youth are unable to find employment that they aspire for. The significant variation in demographic profile necessitates local interventions. Southern states like Goa, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have a higher median age, between the range of 29-31 years, due to early fertility transitions, and will soon be ageing. Hinterland states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan have a low median age between 20 and 22 years. Thus, this

northern belt will have a rising working age population. This requires addressing skill challenges of access, equity, relevance and financing differently. Given that developing skills requires huge investments, availability of real-time data on challenges faced by a region/area/district/state, identification of sectors requiring skilled manpower, and demand-supply match, it is important to assess the outcomes of various interventions undertaken thus far so that the future course of policy action can be planned or modified. Internationally, the first such efforts to develop indicators for skill development were made by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that established the world indicators of skills for employment (WISE). The WISE framework includes a focus on contextual factors in a country, such as the gross domestic product (GDP), population, employment in informal sector; factors affecting skill acquisition, such as educational attainment, literacy rate, enrolment ratios, vocational programme, participation in training/apprenticeship, factors affecting skill requirement, such as employment share by level of education, occupation, incidence of self-employment, skill use and outcomes in terms of growth in GDP, labour productivity, employment rate, earnings, etc. Adapting from this framework, indicators must be developed to address challenges such matching skills across sectors/regions to realize the potential of our youth and the working population. SDIs would improve the effectiveness of various platforms set-up by the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship. They would also enable the states to evaluate and compete with their own past performance and facilitate sharing of best practices across different sectors and

states/union territories. They would help assess the match between employers' needs and future labour market opportunities and based on the assessment of existing policy initiatives and their outcomes, the future course of policy action could be planned or modified. The indicators' parameter of access would measure the capacity and outreach of the programmes. Relevance would measure the ease of entry to the labour market with an enhanced employability. Equity will measure the equal accessibility of the opportunity to all and quality will evaluate whether the training imparted meets the required standard of employability. And finally, the parameter of finance would measure the cost-effectiveness of the funding provided. The dearth of reliable data is a pressing challenge in developing these indicators. There is a need to generate data leading up to the labour market. This can be done by systematically including key questions on skills in employment-unemployment surveys. Once the indicators are finalized, an index can be built, ranking the states based on their performance outcomes. The creation of indicators itself is expected to catalyse the availability of reliable data on a periodic basis.

31. How the government has contributed to increase the employability in the nation?

- (A) by giving appropriate support for the creation of jobs.
- (B) by strengthening institutional training, infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods.
- (C) by addressing challenges such as aspirations and mobilization of youth, quality and relevance of training.
- (D) both (B) and (C)
- (E) All are correct

32. Why India is lagging in skill development as compared to other countries?

- (I) Lack of quality education in educational centres.
 - (II) Unavailability of qualified trainers required for providing skills to youth.
 - (III) Trained population are not getting the employment as per their aspiration.
 - (IV) Large proportion of informally trained workers.
- (A) Only (I)
 (B) Only (II), (III) and (IV)
 (C) Only (I), (II) and (III)
 (D) Only (III) and (IV)
 (E) All

33. What was the need to develop skill development indicators (SDI), developed by OECD for the first time?

- (A) to realize the potential of the youth and working population
- (B) to address the challenge of demographic variation.
- (C) to develop the skills required according to the different challenges faced by different regions.
- (D) Both (A) and (C)
- (E) All are correct

34. Which of the following sentences can be concluded from the fifth paragraph regarding parameters of indicators?

- (A) The indicators influence the gross product of a nation.
- (B) The indicators can be classified under broad parameters of access, equity, quality, relevance and finance.
- (C) The skill development indicator is established by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to develop the skill according to the challenges facing by different regions.

(D) The skill development indicator is dependent on potential of the youth of the nation.

(E) All of the above

35. The appropriate title of the passage is

- (A) Challenges in skill development
- (B) Towards economic development of the nation
- (C) Recognizing the potential of youth
- (D) Skill development indicators are a necessity
- (E) Building skill development

36. Which of the following sentences does not hold true in context to the passage?

- (A) Formally Trained workers in Germany is 75%.
- (B) Northern states due to low median age will have a rising working age population.
- (C) WISE is established by OECD to focus on factors affecting skill acquisition.
- (D) For developing the indicators like skill developing indicators, the lack of availability of real-time data is a challenge.
- (E) All are correct

37. Choose the word which is most same in meaning of the word printed in bold in context of the passage.

Envision

- (A) hype
- (B) stride
- (C) hegemonic
- (D) visualize
- (E) rile

38. Choose the word which is most same in meaning of the word printed in bold in context of the passage.

Paradigms

- (A) tumble
- (B) punitive
- (C) taper
- (D) urge
- (E) ideal

39. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold in context of the passage.

Outreach

- (A) despicable (B) contiguous
(C) flawed (D) refusing
(E) akin

40. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word printed in bold in context of the passage.

Dearth

- (A) abundance (B) abject
(C) advocate (D) flounder
(E) contrite

Directions (41 to 45): Which of the phrases (A), (B), (C) and (D) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in BOLD letters to make the sentence grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is, mark (E) i.e., "No correction required" as the answer.

41. Government will favour legal workarounds and if required will introduce newer laws to remove road blocks. **Whilst worsser**, such steps are almost always long drawn.

- (A) While better
(B) Whether bad
(C) While worse
(D) Wherever better
(E) No correction required

42. From the U.S. perspective, any deterioration in Sino-Indian relations might create instability in the region and **perhaps force it to choose side**.

- (A) Perhaps force it to choose sides
(B) Perhaps force it to choose the side
(C) Perhaps force it to choose its side
(D) Perhaps force it to choose the sides
(E) No correction required

43. RBI will give banks specific time-frame within which they have to either decide the borrower is bankrupt or restructure the debt **while taking** a haircut.

- (A) While taking an
(B) Whenever taking the
(C) Whilst take
(D) If take an
(E) No correction required

44. Education, if looked beyond its conventional boundaries, **formed the very essence** of all our actions.

- (A) Forming the very essence
(B) Forms the very essence
(C) Form the very essence
(D) Formed of the very essence
(E) No correction required

45. Automation, chat bots and big data analytics programmes might take **a toll in** a sector in the next decade or so.

- (A) The toll in the
(B) A toll on the
(C) The toll on a
(D) A toll in the
(E) No correction required

Directions (46 to 50): In each of the questions below, a sentence is given with a part missing. From the given options, choose the combination of idioms/ phrases that fit in the sentence grammatically and contextually

46. As a young man, Frederick the Great was not _____ with his father, Fredrick William.

- (a) on good terms
(b) in accordance with
(c) in tune
(A) Only b

- (B) Only a and b
- (C) Only a and c
- (D) Only b and c
- (E) All a, b and c

47. The second cause for this turmoil is over the past five or six years, Saleh has been _____ his son to become the next president of Yemen.

- (a) seeking to relocate
- (b) trying to position
- (c) keen on
- (A) Only A
- (B) Only C
- (C) Only B
- (D) Only A and C
- (E) None of the above

48. Instead of _____, we should confront him about his poor performance and inquire about the reasons.

- (a) beating around the bush
- (b) giving him the run- around
- (c) being on the run
- (A) Only c
- (B) Only a and b
- (c) Only a and c
- (D) Only b and c
- (E) All a, b and c

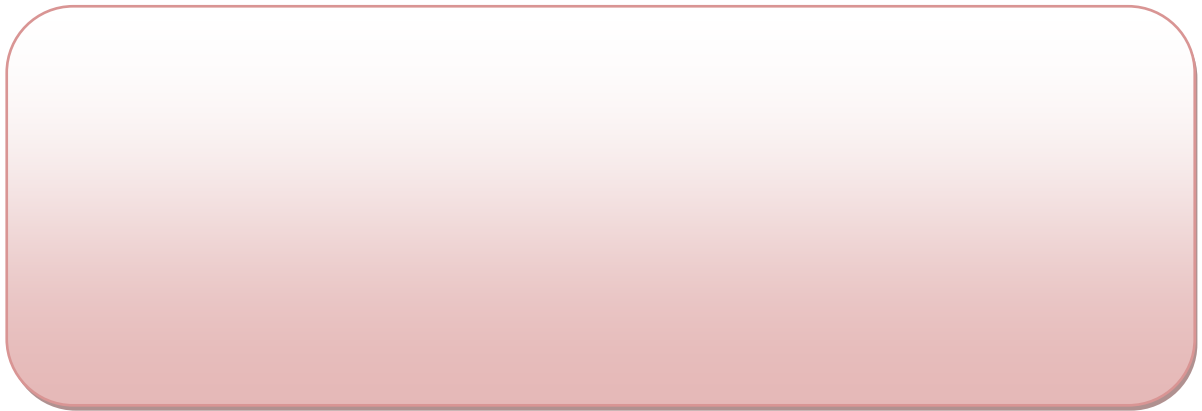
49. Ever since his father lost his job at the factory, they have had to _____ in order to pay for the child's education.

- (a) stretch a dollar
- (b) cut corners
- (c) tighten their belts
- (A) Only b
- (B) Only a and b
- (C) Only a and c
- (D) Only b and c
- (E) All a, b and c

50. He _____ into building a company that would provide access to education to rural people.

- (a) poured his heart
- (b) put on a brave face
- (c) put his soul
- (A) Only c
- (B) a and b
- (C) b and c
- (D) a and c
- (E) All the three





1. Answer: (D) Between, leading
2. Answer: (C) Proactive, inspire
3. Answer: (D) Perceive, becomes
4. Answer: (A) Remove, aligned
5. Answer: (E) Inevitable, partisan
6. Answer: (B) Reported
7. Answer: (D) Alarming
8. Answer: (B) Sharp
9. Answer: (E) Affected
10. Answer: (B) Compared
11. Answer: (D)

Explanation: The correct usage should be “as a somewhat” as in the sentence somewhat is considered as commodity. Hence the article ‘a’ must be used here.

12. Answer: (B)

Explanation: The word “over” is superfluous in the sentence. Hence the correct usage should be “beamed with pride”

13. Answer: (E)

Explanation: All the sentences are correct

14. Answer: (C)

Explanation: “Much” should be replaced with “Enough”.

15. Answer: (D)

Explanation: The correct usage should be “had fretted” as earlier action takes past perfect and the later action takes simple past.

16. Answer: (C) C

17. Answer: (C) D

18. Answer: (B) B

19. Answer: (A) A

20. Answer: (E) E

21. Answer: (A) Honourable

Explanation:

Honourable- Bringing or deserving honour

Persistence- the continued or prolonged existence of something

Jocular- humorous or playful

22. Answer: (B) Novelist

Explanation:

Vacuum- a space entirely devoid of matter

Novelist- writer of novels

23. Answer: (D) Bought

24. Answer: (D) Privileged

Explanation:

Privileged - having special rights, advantages, or immunities.

25. Answer: (A) Followed

Explanation:

Pretension- a claim or assertion of a claim to something

Magnanimous- generous or forgiving, especially towards a rival or less powerful person.

26. Answer: (B) Only (II)

Explanation: In hopes to' is an incorrect usage of the phrase that is meant to represent a hopeful desire for something.

'In hopes of' or 'with hopes to', would be the correct usage in the part C.

27. Answer: (B) Only (II)

Explanation: The sentence suggests that a process of consideration is taking place; which suggests that the correct tense to be used in B must be present perfect, since the activity has occurred in very recent past. So, the past perfect form 'had' is incorrect here

28. Answer: (E) Samuelson's related to one discipline, Arrow's transcended two.

29. Answer: (D) For example, it is a bit difficult to argue that the RBI's repo rate policy can affect OPEC's pricing policy for oil!

30. Answer: (B) If one were to follow the US/China model, then there would be just two "theatres" — the Northern and Western.

31. Answer: (D) both (B) and (C)

32. Answer: (D) Only (III) and (IV)

33. Answer: (E) All are correct

34. Answer: (B) The indicators can be classified under broad parameters of access, equity, quality, relevance and finance.

35. Answer: (D) Skill development indicators are a necessity

36. Answer: (E) All are correct

37. Answer: (D) visualize

38. Answer: (E) ideal

39. Answer: (D) refusing

40. Answer: (A) abundance

41. Answer: (A) While better

42. Answer: (A) Perhaps force it to choose sides

43. Answer: (E) No correction required

44. Answer: (B) Forms the very essence

45. Answer: (B) A toll on the

46. Answer: (C) Only a and c

47. Answer: (C) Only B

48. Answer: (B) Only a and b

49. Answer: (E) All a, b and c

50. Answer: (D) a and c