

Quiz Date: 5th March 2020

Directions (1-5): Rearrange the following six sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F) and (G) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

(D) Credit card interest payments are the dumbest money of all.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

Q1. Which of the following should be the first sentence after rearrangement?

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

Q2. Which of the following should be the third sentence after rearrangement?

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

Q3. Which of the following should be the fourth sentence after rearrangement?

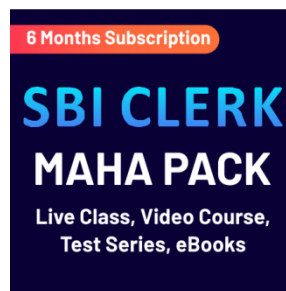
- (a) B
- (b) D
- (c) A
- (d) E
- (e) C

Q4. Which of the following should be the last sentence after rearrangement?

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

Q5. Which of the following should be the second sentence after rearrangement?

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



Directions (6-13): Read the given passage and answer the following questions based on the passage.

Last month, the United Nations released the 26th revision of World Population Prospects and forecast that India will overtake China as the most populous country by 2027. The only surprise associated with this forecast is the way it was covered by the media. We have known for a long time that India is destined to be the most populous country in the world. Population projections are developed using existing population and by adjusting for expected births, deaths and migration. For short-term projections, the biggest impact comes from an existing population, particularly women in childbearing ages. Having instituted a one-child policy in 1979, China's female population in peak reproductive ages (between 15 and 39 years) is estimated at 235 million (2019) compared to 253 million for India. Thus, even if India could institute a policy that reduces its fertility rate to the Chinese level, India will overtake China as the most populous country.

The element of surprise comes from the date by which this momentous event is expected. The UN revises its population projections every two years. In 2015, it was predicted that India would overtake China in 2022, but in the 2019 projections it is 2027. The UN has revised India's expected population size in 2050 downward from 1,705 million in 2015 projections to 1,639 million in 2019 projections. This is due to faster than expected fertility decline, which is good news by all counts. Like it or not, India will reign as the most populous country throughout most of the 21st century. Whether we adjust to this demographic destiny in a way that contributes to the long-term welfare of the nation or not depends on how we deal with three critical issues. First, do we need to adopt **stringent** population control policies? History tells us that unless the Indian state can and chooses to

act with the **ruthlessness** of China, the government has few weapons in its arsenal. Almost all weapons that can be used in a democratic nation, have already been deployed. These include restriction of maternity leave and other maternity benefits for first two births only and disqualification from panchayat elections for people with more than two children in some States along with minor incentives for sterilization.

As demographer Judith Blake noted, people have children, not birth rates and few incentives or disincentives are powerful enough to overcome the desire for children. Ground-level research by former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Nirmala Buch found that individuals who wanted larger families either circumvented the restrictions or went ahead regardless of the consequences. As one of her informants noted, "The sarpanch's post is not going to support me during my old age, but my son will. It does not really matter if I lose the post of sarpanch." "Second, if punitive actions won't work, we must encourage people to have smaller families voluntarily. There are sharp differences in fertility among different socio-economic groups.

In western societies, low fertility is associated with the conflict that working women face between work and child rearing and the individual's desire to enjoy a child-free life. Not so for Indian couples. In India, couples with one child do not consume more nor are women in these families more likely to work. My research with demographer Alaka Basu from Cornell University shows that it is a desire to invest in their children's education and future prospects that seems to drive people to stop at one child. Richer individuals see greater potential for ensuring admission to good colleges and better jobs for their children, inspiring them to limit their family size. Thus, improving education and ensuring that access to good jobs is open to all may also spur even poorer households into having fewer children and investing their hopes in the success of their only daughter or son. Provision of safe and easily accessible contraceptive services will complete this virtuous cycle. Third, we must change our mindset about how population is incorporated in broader development policies.

Q6. According to the given passage, where does the biggest impact come from for short-term projection?

- (a) Existing population especially from women who are in an age of child bearing.
- (b) Adjustment of migration, deaths and expected births.
- (c) getting it covered by media
- (d) Instituting a one-child policy.
- (e) none of the above

Q7. As per the given passage, what is/are the cause(s) of India's expected population decrease in 2050?

- (a) Due to UN's prediction that India would overtake China.
- (b) Decline in expected fertility rate faster than usual.
- (c) Revision of population projection by UN every two years
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) None of the above

Q8. What is/are the weapons government can deploy to discourage population growth?

- (a) restriction of maternity leave for first two births only
- (b) Maternity benefits for first two births only
- (c) Disqualifying people with more than two children from panchayat elections
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of these

Q9. According to the demographer Judith Blake, what is sufficient to overcome the desire for children?

- (a) Few incentives or disincentives
- (b) Restricting all the benefits
- (c) Disqualifying people from major roles of society
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) None of these

Q10. What is the cause of low fertility rate in western societies?

- (a) Life of women getting stuck between work and child rearing
- (b) Individual's desire to enjoy a life without children
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Children are considered as a financial burden
- (e) none of these

Q11. How can even poorer households be spurred to have fewer children?

- (a) Improving education
- (b) Ensuring access of good jobs is open to all
- (c) Granting medical facilities for only one child.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) All of the above

Q12. Which of the following words is most similar in meaning with **STRINGENT** highlighted in the given passage?

- (a) Strict
- (b) Lenient
- (c) Flexible
- (d) Convincing
- (e) Compressed

Q13. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to **RUTHLESSNESS** highlighted in the passage?

- (a) tyrannical
- (b) Compassionate
- (c) Barbarous
- (d) Relentless
- (e) Abominable



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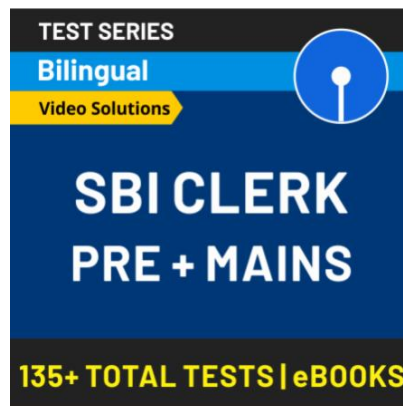
Directions (14-15): Each of the sentences given below contains a blank. Identify the most suitable alternative among the five given that fits into the blank to make the sentence logical and meaningful.

Q14. Democritus replied that he was searching for the source of madness, since it _____ the whole world.

- (a) Audacity
- (b) Delectation
- (c) Afflicted
- (d) Purview
- (e) Extravagance

Q15. Süddeutsche Zeitung gave last fall to a _____ essay about Michel Houellebecq's seventh novel, Serotonin.

- (a) Scathing
- (b) Frugality
- (c) Adverse
- (d) Chaos
- (e) Grapple



Solutions:

S1. Ans. (b)

Sol. The correct sequence is DFBAEC.

(D) Credit card interest payments are the dumbest money of all.

(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

Hence, option (b) is the right answer choice.

S2. Ans. (a)

Sol. The correct sequence is DFBAEC.

(D) Credit card interest payments are the dumbest money of all.

(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

Hence, option (a) is the right answer choice.

S3. Ans. (c)

Sol. The correct sequence is DFBAEC.

(D) Credit card interest payments are the dumbest money of all.

(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

Hence, option (c) is the right answer choice.

S4. Ans. (e)

Sol. The correct sequence is DFBAEC.

(D) Credit card interest payments are the dumbest money of all.

(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

Hence, option (e) is the right answer choice.

S5. Ans. (c)

Sol. The correct sequence is DFBAEC.

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(F) But evidently, many are willing to make these payments, and the tribe is growing rapidly.

(B) Stock market investors now have a unique opportunity to stake claim to this easy money, with SBI Cards set to list its shares.

(A) In stock market parlance, this means SBI Cards will command a scarcity premium.

(E) Usually the largest credit card businesses in India are run by banks as part of main operations.

(C) but SBI Cards is one of the few large companies in the sector that is structured as a separate entity.

Hence, option (c) is the right answer choice.

S6. Ans. (a)

Sol. Referring to the first paragraph, option (a) is the right answer choice. "For short-term projections, the biggest impact comes from an existing population, particularly women in childbearing ages."

S7. Ans. (b)

Sol. Referring to the second paragraph, answer (b) is the right answer choice.

S8. Ans. (d)

Sol. Referring to the paragraph second, option (d) is the right answer choice.

S9. Ans. (a)

Sol. Referring to the third paragraph, option (a) is the right answer. "As demographer Judith Blake noted, people have children, not birth rates and few incentives or disincentives are powerful enough to overcome the desire for children."

S10. Ans. (c)

Sol. Referring to the fourth paragraph, option (c) is the right answer choice.

S11. Ans. (d)

Sol. Referring to the Fourth paragraph, option (d) is the right answer choice.

“Thus, improving education and ensuring that access to good jobs is open to all may also spur even poorer households into having fewer children and investing their hopes in the success of their only daughter or son.”

S12. Ans. (a)

Sol. Option (a) is the right answer choice.

Stringent- (of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting.

S13. Ans. (b)

Sol. Option (b) is the right answer choice.

Ruthlessness- the quality of lacking pity or compassion for others.

S14. Ans. (c)

Sol. “**Afflicted**” fits into the blank to make the sentence logical and meaningful. Hence, **option (c)** is the right answer choice.

Audacity- a willingness to take bold risks.

Delectation- pleasure and delight.

Afflicted- (of a problem or illness) cause pain or trouble to; affect adversely.

Purview- the scope of the influence or concerns of something.

S15. Ans. (a)

Sol. **Scathing**” fits into the blank to make the sentence logical and meaningful. Hence, **option (a)** is the right answer choice.

Scathing- witheringly scornful; severely critical.

Frugality- the quality of being economical with money or food; thriftiness.

Grapple- engage in a close fight or struggle without weapons; wrestle.

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