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Directions (1-9): Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed. There are some blanks given in the passage based on which some questions are framed, and some words are highlighted as well to help you answer some of the questions.

Official trade data for April, released at the mid-point of the Finance Ministry's five-tranche package to **(A)** the economy in the throes of a pandemic-induced lockdown, was the grimmest in over two decades. Merchandise exports had collapsed by over 60% and imports contracted only slightly less. **(B)** Only two of India's 30 **latter (1)** export products **quarter (2)** positive growth — iron ore and pharmaceuticals, the **biggest (3)** by just **aclocked (4)** of a percent. Thanks to the sharp dip in global oil prices, higher volumes of petroleum exports didn't help much in value terms. **(C)** *The trade collapse was not surprising as the spate of national lockdowns around the world has not only dented demand and investment, but also severity disrupted global supply chains and shipping routes.* India's exports, however, were already in a free fall. The government's economic stimulus package in totality offered several reform commitments, improvements in the ease of doing business along with some forbearance and a few **(D)** for micro, small and medium enterprises (many of which are also export-oriented units). However, there was no explicit **(E)** offered for exporters. The Reserve Bank of India, on May 22, did unveil a few measures, including a special ₹15,000 crore liquidity facility for the Exim Bank of India and **(F)** to complete outward remittances. For exporters, the maximum permissible credit period from banks was extended from 12 months to 15 months, for disbursements made up to July 31, 2020. The three-month credit extension for exporters was, in fact, not a new measure and had already been announced by the central bank on March 23. So its repackaging two months later as a fresh move suggests policy makers are running short of ideas to prop up a key employment-generating **(G)** of the country's economy post-liberalisation. In an employment-intensive sector such as textiles, garment exports, which fell 16% between January and March, fell 91% in April. The outcome for May is unlikely to be any better and the World Trade Organization expects trade flows to slip by between 13% and 32% over 2020. **(H)** The **murkier (1)** gets even **prognosis (2)** when one adds to this the new **inward (3)** on trade in medical and food supplies imposed by over 90 countries, and an increasing tendency to look **barriers (4)** for essential supplies (as India is doing too with its emphasis on self-reliance). The country is again pitching to become an alternative investment destination for big global businesses in the hope that the COVID-19 pandemic would prompt them to hedge their China-dependent supply chains. But investment moves are a longer-term play. Meanwhile, Indian exporters shouldn't be caught on the back foot as bigger stimulus packages, announced by other countries, kick in to revive demand and give a minor **(I)** to international trade.

Q1. Which of the following word given in the options should come at the place marked as (A) in the above passage to make it grammatically correct and meaningful? Also, the word should fill in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.

(I) Use the crop tool to something usable from your obscured photo, and the enlarge wizard to blow it up to a reasonable size.

(II) Japan has conveyed its desire to the ship from where it lies in the East China sea, but China has yet to agree to the request.

- (a) Disparate
 - (b) Folly
 - (c) Transcend
 - (d) Salvage
 - (e) None of these
- L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q2. The sentence given in (B) has four words given in bold. Amongst the given bold words which of the followings must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) Both 2-1 and 3-4
- (b) Both 1-4 and 2-3
- (c) Both 2-4 and 1-3
- (d) 1-3
- (e) 2-4

L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q3. In the above passage, sentence (C) is italicized. There may or may not be error in one part of the sentence, select the part having error it in.

- (a) *The trade collapse was not surprising as the spate*
- (b) *of national lockdowns around the world*
- (c) *has not only dented demand and investment*
- (d) *but also severity disrupted global*
- (e) *supply chains and shipping routes.*

L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q4. Which of the following should fill the blank given in (D) to make it contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) Truncated
- (b) Apprehension
- (c) Sops
- (d) Unrelenting
- (e) None of the above

L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q5. Which of the following word given in the options should come at the place marked as (E) in the given passage to make it grammatically correct and meaningful? Also, the word

should fill in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.

(I) The judge had no option to sentence to death for murder and no control over the timing of the execution unless he ordered a

(II) With a temporary from timetables, regular classes, special classes, tests and homework, time seems to stand still at last.

- (a) Bungled
 - (b) Respite
 - (c) Deter
 - (d) Indiscriminate
 - (e) Snowballed
- L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q6. Which of the following phrases should fill the blank (F) to make it contextually and grammatically meaningful and correct respectively?

- (a) the turn-around time of allotting the PAN
 - (b) need a registered mobile number
 - (c) has come after the initial announcement
 - (d) a six-month extension for importers
 - (e) shall be allotted online
- L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q7. Which of the following word given in the options should come at the place marked as (G) in the given passage to make it grammatically correct and meaningful? Also, the word should fill in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.

(I) Austria was no longer a _____ against the east, but a buffer state between two competing ideologies.

(II) On deck, the Captain noticed a lone figure, leaning against the _____ of the command ship, completely absorbed by the surrounding scenery.

- (a) Impulsively
 - (b) Malice
 - (c) Bulwark
 - (d) Enunciate
 - (e) Vitiate
- L1Difficulty 3
QTags cloze test

Q8. The sentence given in (H) has four words given in bold. Amongst the given bold words which of the followings must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) Both 2-1 and 3-4
- (b) Both 1-4 and 2-3
- (c) Both 2-4 and 1-3
- (d) 1-3
- (e) 2-4

L1Difficulty 3

QTags cloze test

Q9. Which of the following should fill the blank given in (I) to make it contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) Languish
- (b) Transpires
- (c) Phillip
- (d) Protracted
- (e) None of the above

L1Difficulty 3

QTags cloze test

Directions (10-15): 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).

Q10. The main reason why prejudices predominate in Indian caste circles has to do with internal reasons. _____. Before the British brought us stories of 'African' cannibalism, we had our own stories of cannibalism — associated, from classical texts down to some current Chitra comics, with dark-skinned, non-'Aryan'-looking creatures. Similarly, the way we have often treated aboriginal women in India — partly because their dress codes and social mores differ from mainstream Hindustani (Hindu, as well as Muslim) ones is simply shocking.

- (a) It does not do to put all the blame on our colonial inheritance or its neocolonial cultural ramifications.
- (b) As a nation, we are yet to face up to the racism and sexism that runs through many caste narratives.
- (c) There is an argument that the English worked out their initial theories of racism on the Irish before, in tandem with other Europeans, applying them on dark-skinned people, like many Africans.
- (d) Of course, many of us who have African, black British, or African-American friends and acquaintances cannot understand this blindness on the part of such politicians.
- (e) This is exacerbated by the tendency in many conservative circles to consider the material covering a woman's body to be an indication of her soul and morality.

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

Q11. Journalists try to explain political dynamics during elections through electoral arithmetic and electoral chemistry. While they rely on a range of statistics for the former, they try to gauge the popular mood of the people through field reporting to discern the latter. However, over the last two decades, opinion polls seem to have replaced conventional journalistic wisdom. _____

- (a) Barring exceptions, most polls have got their numbers wrong.
- (b) The electoral outcome is an organic manifestation of the people's will.
- (c) According to Herbert Gans: "Polls are not the best representative of the popular will, for people's answers to pollster questions are not quite the same as their opinions."
- (d) Media houses, especially television channels, began giving primacy to surveys — both pre-poll and post-poll — to capture the political trend.
- (e) The problem with journalism, which is akin to the social sciences, is that it wants to mimic the fundamental sciences.

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

Q12. If an equal society is India's declared objective, politicians and administrators should travel like ordinary people. A number of small privileges will have to be stripped to bring equity to a deeply classist society. Terrorism had provided the excuse for gifting VIPs with massive security details, whose size and armaments had become expressions of personal status and power, rather like expensive jewelry. _____. Now, the abolition of car beacons takes us another step closer to egalitarianism. And yet, a long road lies ahead.

- (a) The red beacon is a distant descendant of the colonial policy, and has no place in a democracy.
- (b) The move is belated but wholly welcome in a country where the VIP beacon had become a status symbol, a bauble for politicians and administrators to aspire to.
- (c) Research has shown that a month later people can only retain about 2% of the message they hear.
- (d) The prime minister has stood India's infamous VIP culture on its head by declaring that every Indian is a VIP.
- (e) Will they and their henchmen be allowed special access to railway bookings?

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

Q13. The mandate and role of the NitiAayog should be redefined and enhanced to evolve models aimed at balanced regional development. It is axiomatic that the reticence of private investment in backward states can be somewhat overcome through enhanced public outlays. Given the constraints of fiscal space, seeking greater engagement of multilateral agencies, both traditional and non-traditional, like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the New Development Bank as well as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank would be helpful. Special infrastructure programmes designed for the more backward states will have multiplier benefits. _____

- (a) The growing divergence of states, with the exception of health parameters, needs policy-induced reversal.
- (b) Further, intra-regional disparity to overall income inequality has also increased substantially.
- (c) This persistent stagnation needs rigorous action.
- (d) Export sectors attract capital, technology and improved managerial practices which could greatly improve their competitive efficiency.
- (e) None of these.

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

Q14. In India, there is a need for proper identification of long-term and immediate scientific requirements following which there needs to be a framework evolved. Basic things have to be done along with it too. There has to be a solid foundation for the development of science as there is enormous latent talent in the country which is under-utilised. Educational institutions have to find solutions to tap young talent. _____. Finally, the development of science and scientific innovation should not be limited to formal institutions but made an integral part of society. The Constitution talks about fostering a scientific temper and the government must work towards this. Women must also be encouraged to choose a career in science as they form half the country's talent pool.

- (a) Very roughly, the ratio of R&D efforts as shared between the government and private sector is 4:1.
- (b) Effective autonomy has to be given to some institutions which are producing sound results.
- (c) Finally, administrative measures need to be taken to improve the efficiency of scientific institutions
- (d) Otherwise, economics in India will progress as it has always — over-managed and under-performing
- (e) This includes eliminating corruption, ensuring integrity in appointments and encouraging industry-academic collaboration as well as public-private partnerships.

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

Q15. Silicon Valley has always featured entrepreneurs making giant leaps. Even by those standards Google jumped far, fast. From the start its search engine enjoyed a virtuous circle—the more people use it and the more data it collects, the more useful it becomes. _____. It took Google just eight years to reach \$10bn in annual sales. Its peak cumulative losses were \$21m. By comparison, Uber has incinerated \$15bn and still loses money.

- (a) The time a consumer saves by shopping for groceries online is indeed important.
- (b) Education has become an arms race in which one parent's additional outlay of time and money forces others to follow suit

(c) Microsoft has given a facelift to its iconic Windows logo, and over 100 of its application icons

(d) The business model, in which advertisers pay to get the attention of users around the world, has printed money.

(e) None of these.

L1Difficulty 3

QTags Paragraph completion

S1. Ans. (d)

Sol. “**Salvage**” fits in the blank (A) as well as in the given two sentences to make them contextually correct and meaningful. Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

Disparate- Essentially different in kind; not able to be compared.

Contrasting, Different, Dissimilar, Unlike

Folly- Lack of good sense.

Foolishness.

Transcend- Be or go beyond the range or limits of a field of activity or conceptual sphere.

Surpass, Excel, Beat

Salvage-rescue (a wrecked or disabled ship or its cargo) from loss at sea **OR** the rescue of property or material from potential loss or destruction.

S2. Ans. (c)

Sol. 2-4 and 1-3 must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful. The sentence after replacement is, “Only two of India’s 30 **biggest** export products **clocked** positive growth — iron ore and pharmaceuticals, the **latter** by just a **quarter** of a percent.”

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

S3. Ans. (d)

Sol. Error lies in option (d), where “**severity**” will be replaced by “**severely**”. Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

Severely (adv.)-to an undesirably great or intense degree. (***Intensely or greatly disrupted the global supply change.....***)

Severity (noun)- the fact or condition of being severe.

S4. Ans. (c)

Sol. “**Sops**” should fill in the blank given in (D) to make it contextually correct and meaningful.

Sops- a thing of no great value given or done as a concession to appease someone whose main concerns or demands are not being met.

Apprehension- Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen.

Anxiety, Angst, Worry

Unrelenting- Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination.

Implacable, Uncompromising

Truncated- Shorten something by cutting off the top of the end.

Curtail, Trim

S5. Ans. (b)

Sol. "**Respite**" should come at the place marked as (E) in the given passage to make it grammatically correct and meaningful. Also, the word can fill in the two sentences given to make them contextually correct and meaningful. Hence, **option (b)** is the right answer choice.

S6. Ans. (d)

Sol. "**a six-month extension for importers**" should fill in the blank (F) to make it contextually and grammatically meaningful and correct respectively. Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S7. Ans. (c)

Sol. "**Bulwark**" should replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful. Hence, **option (c)** is the right answer choice.

Bulwark- a defensive wall.

OR

an extension of a ship's sides above the level of the deck.

Malice- The desire to harm someone.

Ill will, Spite, Malevolence, Animosity

Impulsively- Without forethought.

On impulse, Besetting, Compulsive, Driven, Obsessional, Obsessive

Enunciate- Say or pronounce clearly.

Articulate, Express, Announce, Proclaim

Vitiate- Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of.

Destroy or impair the legal validity of.

S8. Ans. (a)

Sol. 2-1 and 3-4 must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful. The sentence after replacement is,

The **prognosis (1)** gets even **murkier (2)** when one adds to this the new **barriers (3)** on trade in medical and food supplies imposed by over 90 countries, and an increasing tendency to look **inward (4)** for essential supplies (as India is doing too with its emphasis on self-reliance).

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

S9. Ans. (c)

Sol. "**Fillip**" should fill the blank given in (I) to make it contextually correct and meaningful.

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

Fillip- something which acts as a stimulus or boost to an activity.

Languish- Lose or lack vitality.

Grow weak, Deteriorate

Be forced to remain in an unpleasant place or situation

Transpire- Secret or something unknown) come to be known.

Be revealed.

Protracted- Lasting for a long time or longer than expected or usual.

Prolonged, Extended

S10. Ans. (b)

Sol. The given paragraph is about the social evils that get highlighted with every new incident in the society. Read the sentence just before the blank space, it talks about the prejudices existing in Indian caste circles which can be connected with sentence mentioned in the option (b). Hence (b) is the correct choice to fill the gap which fits perfectly to the meaning of the paragraph.

S11. Ans. (d)

Sol. The given paragraph is about the new media trend in the form of pre-meditated opinion polls which often are misleading and superfluous. Read the paragraph carefully especially the second last sentence, it talks about the craze of new opinion polls which now replace the conventional methods. Hence among the given options, option (d) makes the most appropriate conclusion to this paragraph as it clearly mentions the need of capturing political trend. Other options are irrelevant in the context of the paragraph.

S12. Ans. (a)

Sol. The paragraph talks about the need to bring equity in deeply classist society where VIP culture has taken the most prominent seat. Read the sentences on either side of the blank space, from there it can be inferred that only option (a) makes the perfect replacement. Other options do not make sense to the meaning of the paragraph.

S13. Ans. (a)

Sol. Going through the paragraph, we conclude that the paragraph is about role of the NitiAayog that needs to be enhanced and need of engagements of multilateral agencies for regional development. Hence sentence (a) completes the paragraph as it talks about the need of policy induction. Other sentences are not going with the idea of the paragraph and hence are irrelevant.

S14. Ans. (b)

Sol. The paragraph before the blank is about what should be done for development of science in the country, like Educational institutions should bring out the new talents. The paragraph after blank is about the fact that development of science and technology should be made to an integral part of the society. Therefore the gap must be filled by the sentence telling about the way to achieve this. Hence sentence (b) only tells us that rights should be given to the institutions which are producing sound results. Hence sentence (b) is the right option.

S15. Ans. (d)

Sol. Read the paragraph carefully. It talks about how the new entrepreneurs are making the giant leaps in the Silicon Valley followed by an example of Google. Now look at the options one by one. Options (a) and (b) do not fit into the blank space as both the statements fail to add meaning to the following sentence. Similarly options (c) can be easily eliminated on the basis of their meanings as they do not align with the meaning of the paragraph. Hence only option (d) fits appropriately.