

## Reading Comprehension Questions For RBI Grade B Phase I Exam 2026

**Directions: {1-8}: Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Certain parts have been highlighted to help answer the questions.**

At the Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the XYZ Company, the chairman declared that it was the patriotic duty of the bicycle industry in independent India to fulfil the targets set in the First Five-Year Plan (1951–1956) In keeping with the ideas of self-reliance and nation-building that were **prevalent** then, he echoed the sentiments of several Indian industrialists when he declared that his company was ready to manufacture “100% swadeshi cycles”. Despite the fluctuations in demand due to World War II and the high cost of small, imported components, the country looked forward to a “bicycle age”.

From the 1890s onwards, British administrative officials, and some of their wives were the earliest to ride bicycles in India. Initially attracting attention that was laced with amusement, suspicion, and disbelief, the bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ came to be seen as an important technological tool by them. However, by the dawn of the 20th century, along with the sewing machine and other industrial products of western import and origin, the bicycle was perceived as an “everyday technology”, as historian David Arnold called it, and it added a new socio-cultural dynamic to the colony. By the 1920s, cities such as Calcutta and Bombay witnessed a great number of young men **enthusiastically** adopting cycling not only as a sport but also as a mode of transport that enabled them to move around freely and easily. British bicycles from well-known manufacturers dominated the Indian market, and, soon, cycling tours and competitions were organised to popularise the vehicle.

With import substitution and high tariff policies in place, the 1950s saw the Planning Commission, helmed by Jawaharlal Nehru, looking towards the bicycle manufacturers to usher in an era of industrial self-reliance alongside the heavy industries that were being promoted at the time. Hind Cycles drew upon this “nationalist” calling and the state continued its protection and assistance to the bicycle industry.

**Q1. Which of the following reflects the objective of the chairman of the XYZ Company?**

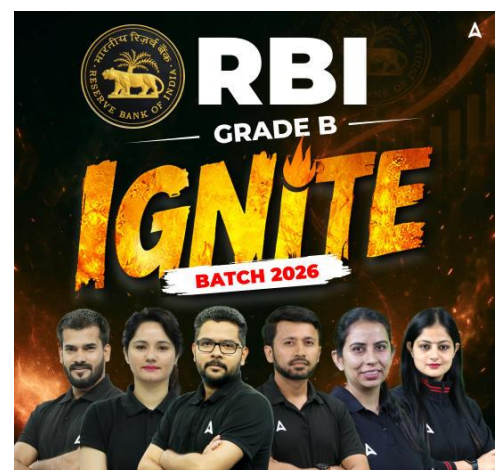
- (a) to make cycles affordable for every Indian.
- (b) to manufacture cycles indigenously.
- (c) to upgrade basic cycle features to advance.
- (d) to make people switch motor from vehicles to cycle.
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Among the given options, only statement (b) is correct with reference to the context of the given question. Refer to the first paragraph, “In keeping with the ideas of self-reliance and nation-building that were prevalent then, he echoed the sentiments of several Indian industrialists when he declared that company was ready to manufacture “100% swadeshi cycles”.”

**Q2. What was the challenge faced after World War II to accomplish the “bicycle age”?**

- (a) Inability in importing low-cost inputs due to strict importing regulations.
- (b) Abolishing gender inequality where only men were allowed to ride cycles.
- (c) Reluctance of Indian people for using cycle during prominence of a bullock cart.
- (d) High cost of small, imported components and instability in the demand.
- (e) None of these



**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct choice can be inferred from the first paragraph which mentions, “Despite the fluctuations in demand due to World War II and the high cost of small, imported components, the country looked forward to a “bicycle age”.”

**Q3. What was the sentiment of the British people towards cycling?**

- (a) Britons were against the cycle as they used to believe the cycle was a sign of Indian patriotism.
- (b) Only wealthy Britons were using cycles to flaunt possession of advanced technology.
- (c) The British were liking cycle considered the cycle an important technological tool.
- (d) Cycle was considered a symbol of poverty by British people and they disapproved of it.
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** To validate the answer, refer to the second paragraph which mentions, “From the 1890s onwards, British administrative officials, and some of their wives were the earliest to ride bicycles in India. Initially attracting attention that was laced with amusement, suspicion, and disbelief, the bicycle eventually came to be seen as an important technological tool by them.”

**Q4. Which of the following step(s) was/were taken to popularize the cycle?**

- (a) Free cycles were distributed to students and poor people to advertise cycles.
- (b) Daily advertisements were published in print media for cycle marketing.
- (c) Heavy discounts were offered by British cycle companies to increase sales.
- (d) Cycling tours and contests were held to promote the cycle.
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** To validate the answer, refer to the second paragraph which mentions, “British bicycles from well-known manufacturers dominated the Indian market, and, soon, cycling tours and competitions were organised to popularise the vehicle”

**Q5. Which of the following statements is FALSE with respect to the passage?**

- (a) The Planning Commission wanted the cycle industry to become self-reliant.
- (b) Cycles were used as a sport and also as a means of transportation in Calcutta and Bombay.
- (c) The Planning Commission, established in 1949, was headed by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- (d) Sewing machines along with cycles were also part of everyday technology.
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Option (c) is incorrect with reference to the paragraph.

For option (a), refer to the last paragraph which mentions, “With import substitution and high tariff policies in place, the 1950s saw the Planning Commission, helmed by Jawaharlal Nehru, looking towards the bicycle manufacturers to usher in an era of industrial self-reliance alongside the heavy industries that were being promoted at the time.”

For option (b), refer to the first paragraph which mentions, “By the 1920s, cities such as Calcutta and Bombay witnessed a great number of young men enthusiastically adopting cycling not only as a sport but also as a mode of transport that enabled them to move around freely and easily.”

For option (c), refer to the last paragraph which mentions, “With import substitution and high tariff policies in place, the 1950s saw the Planning Commission, helmed by Jawaharlal Nehru, looking towards the bicycle manufacturers to usher in an era of industrial self-reliance alongside the heavy industries that were being promoted at the time”

For option (d), refer to the first paragraph which mentions, “However, by the dawn of the 20th century, along with the sewing machine and other industrial products of western import and origin, the bicycle was perceived as an “everyday technology”, as historian David Arnold called it, and it added a new socio-cultural dynamic to the colony.”

**Q6. Which of the following words is a synonym of ‘enthusiastically’ given in the passage?**

- (a) exhorted
- (b) inhospitably
- (c) exuberantly
- (d) sluggishly
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** ‘Exuberantly’ is a synonym of ‘enthusiastically’.

enthusiastically: in a way that shows intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.

inhospitably: not friendly or generous

exuberantly: in a way that is full of energy, excitement and happiness.

sluggishly: moving or operating more slowly than usual and with less energy

exhorted: strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something.

**Q7. Which of the following words is the most suitable word for the blank given in the passage?**

- (a) eventually
- (b) relentlessly
- (c) hopelessly
- (d) abnormally
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** ‘Eventually’ is the most suitable word for the given blank.

eventually: in the end, especially after a long delay, dispute, or series of problems.

relentlessly: in an unceasingly intense or harsh way.

hopelessly: in a way that shows or causes despair.

abnormally: in a manner that deviates from what is normal or usual; irregularly or extraordinarily.

**Q8. Which of the following words is an antonym of ‘prevalent’ given in the passage?**

- (a) ample
- (b) scarce
- (c) profound
- (d) ignite
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** ‘Scare’ is an antonym of ‘prevalent’

prevalent: widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.

scarce: occurring in small numbers or quantities; rare.

ample: enough or more than enough; plentiful.

profound: (of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense.

ignite: catch fire or cause to catch fire.

**Directions {9-16}: Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

As spring unfolds, the battle against frost in agricultural sectors intensifies. Frost, a natural phenomenon where temperatures drop to below freezing, can be devastating for crops. This sudden temperature plunge causes the water inside plant cells to freeze, expanding and rupturing cell walls. The result is significant damage to tender new growth, which is critical for the season's yield.

To combat this, farmers and researchers have devised innovative strategies. One traditional method is the use of smudge pots, which release smoke to form a protective layer over the crops. This smoke layer helps in trapping heat and raising the temperature slightly, enough to ward off the frost. However, this method, while effective, has environmental drawbacks due to the smoke and pollutants released into the atmosphere.

Another method gaining popularity is the use of wind machines. These tall fans mix warmer air from above with the colder surface air, raising the temperature around the crops. While more environmentally friendly than smudge pots, wind machines are expensive and require significant energy to operate.

The latest in frost protection technology involves the use of water sprinklers. Ironically, by spraying water on the crops and allowing it to freeze, a small amount of heat is released. This process, known as latent heat release, can keep the plants at a just above freezing temperature, preventing cell damage. This method is energy-intensive and requires a large amount of water, making it less feasible in areas with water scarcity.

Researchers are also exploring genetic modifications and breeding frost-resistant crop varieties as a long-term solution. By understanding the genes responsible for frost tolerance, scientists aim to develop crops that can withstand low temperatures without suffering damage.

The battle against spring frost is a testament to human **ingenuity** in the face of natural challenges. Each method, with its own set of advantages and limitations, highlights the ongoing effort to protect vital agricultural resources from the unpredictable whims of weather.

**Q16. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word "ingenuity" as highlighted in the passage.**

- (a) prolificness
- (b) genius
- (c) capableness
- (d) imagination
- (e) dullness

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** "Ingenuity" refers to the quality of being clever, original, and inventive. The most appropriate antonym from the given options is "**dullness**," which implies a lack of creativity or sharpness in thought, directly contrasting the notion of inventiveness and cleverness associated with ingenuity. The other options, such as prolificness, genius, capableness, and imagination, are all qualities or states that align more closely with the concept of ingenuity rather than oppose it.

**Prolificness:** The quality of producing a large amount of something; fertility.

**Genius:** Exceptional intellectual or creative power or other natural ability.

**Capableness:** Having the ability, fitness, or quality necessary to do or achieve a specified thing.

**Imagination:** The faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses.

**Dullness:** Lacking interest or excitement; lacking sharpness of edge or point.

**Q9. What method, paradoxically, involves the application of water to safeguard crops against frost, as mentioned in the passage?**

- (a) The precise delivery of water at the root level through drip irrigation systems
- (b) The activation of water sprinklers to coat the crops, inducing latent heat release
- (c) The utilization of advanced hydroponic systems for indoor crop cultivation
- (d) The careful management of soil moisture levels to prevent frost penetration
- (e) The deployment of aqueous film-forming foams as a thermal blanket

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The paradoxical method involves activating water sprinklers to coat crops with water, which freezes and induces latent heat release, thereby protecting the crops from frost damage, as detailed in the passage.

The passage explicitly describes this paradoxical method: **"The latest in frost protection technology involves the use of water sprinklers. Ironically, by spraying water on the crops and allowing it to freeze, a small amount of heat is released."** This method is based on the principle of latent heat release, which helps keep the plants at a just above freezing temperature, thus preventing cell damage.

**Q10. What significant environmental concern is associated with the traditional frost protection method of smudge pots?**

- (a) The unintended excessive consumption of water resources
- (b) The considerable amount of energy required for operation
- (c) The emission of smoke and pollutants into the atmosphere
- (d) The potential for causing long-term soil degradation
- (e) The inadvertent attraction of pests and diseases to crops

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The significant environmental concern with smudge pots is their emission of smoke and pollutants into the atmosphere, which, while effective in frost protection, poses environmental drawbacks.

The passage addresses the environmental drawbacks of using smudge pots, stating, **"This method, while effective, has environmental drawbacks due to the smoke and pollutants released into the atmosphere."** This highlights the primary concern with smudge pots as their negative impact on air quality through the emission of smoke and pollutants.

**Q11. The long-term solution of developing frost-resistant crops aims to address what specific challenge in agricultural frost management?**

- (a) Minimizing the reliance on labor-intensive farming techniques
- (b) Reducing the dependency on chemical-based pest control measures
- (c) Engineering crops that can endure low temperatures without incurring damage
- (d) Boosting crop yields independent of the varying soil conditions
- (e) Enhancing crops' innate resistance to a broad spectrum of pests and diseases

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The aim of developing frost-resistant crops as a long-term solution is specifically to engineer crops capable of enduring low temperatures without incurring damage, focusing on genetic modifications and breeding for frost tolerance.

The passage mentions, **"Researchers are also exploring genetic modifications and breeding frost-resistant crop varieties as a long-term solution. By understanding the genes responsible for frost tolerance, scientists aim to develop crops that can withstand low temperatures without suffering damage."** This clearly outlines the goal of developing frost-resistant crops as engineering them to endure low temperatures without incurring damage.

**Q12. Which frost protection technique is notably absent from the passage's discussion on combating spring frost in agriculture?**

- (a) Utilizing water sprinklers to initiate latent heat release by freezing water on crops
- (b) The strategic use of wind machines to alter microclimatic conditions around crops
- (c) Employing smudge pots to generate a warming layer of smoke
- (d) The application of specialized chemical sprays designed to protect crops from frost
- (e) Investigating genetic modifications to produce frost-resistant varieties of crops

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The passage discusses various methods for combating spring frost but does not mention the application of specialized chemical sprays. Here's how each option aligns with the passage:

(a) Utilizing water sprinklers: The passage mentions, "**The latest in frost protection technology involves the use of water sprinklers...by spraying water on the crops and allowing it to freeze, a small amount of heat is released.**"

(b) The strategic use of wind machines: It is mentioned as another method gaining popularity, where "**These tall fans mix warmer air from above with the colder surface air, raising the temperature around the crops.**"

(c) Employing smudge pots: Described in the passage as a traditional method, "**One traditional method is the use of smudge pots, which release smoke to form a protective layer over the crops.**"

(d) The application of specialized chemical sprays: This method is not mentioned anywhere in the passage, making it the notably absent technique.

(e) Investigating genetic modifications: The passage refers to this as a long-term solution, stating, "**Researchers are also exploring genetic modifications and breeding frost-resistant crop varieties as a long-term solution.**"

**Q13. Among the methods mentioned for combating spring frost, which traditional approach involves the generation of smoke to create a protective atmospheric layer?**

(a) The implementation of complex irrigation systems to maintain soil moisture

(b) Applying chemical sprays to form a frost-repellent film on plants

(c) The strategic planting of cover crops to provide natural insulation

(d) Erecting greenhouses to create controlled microclimates for crops

(e) Utilizing smudge pots to generate smoke and form a protective layer over crops

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Smudge pots are highlighted as a traditional method for combating spring frost by generating smoke to form a protective layer over the crops, aiming to trap heat and slightly raise the temperature.

The passage specifically states, "**One traditional method is the use of smudge pots, which release smoke to form a protective layer over the crops.**" This method involves utilizing smudge pots to generate smoke, creating a protective atmospheric layer that traps heat and slightly raises the temperature around the crops, thus protecting them from frost damage.

**Q14. Which word best captures the tone of the passage discussing strategies to combat spring frost in agriculture?**

(a) Optimistic

(b) Pessimistic

(c) Informative

(d) Satirical

(e) Indifferent

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The passage provides a factual and neutral overview of various strategies to combat spring frost, including the use of smudge pots, wind machines, water sprinklers, and genetic modifications. It discusses the pros and cons of each method without expressing a bias or emotional stance, making "Informative" the word that best captures the tone.

To support the selection of "Informative" as the tone of the passage, consider the following lines:

"**Frost, a natural phenomenon where temperatures drop to below freezing, can be devastating for crops.**"

"**One traditional method is the use of smudge pots, which release smoke to form a protective layer over the crops.**"

"Another method gaining popularity is the use of wind machines."

"The latest in frost protection technology involves the use of water sprinklers."

"Researchers are also exploring genetic modifications and breeding frost-resistant crop varieties as a long-term solution."

These lines from the passage illustrate its informative tone by presenting facts and explanations about various frost protection strategies without conveying optimism, pessimism, humor, or indifference. The focus is on educating the reader about the phenomenon of spring frost and the methods developed to mitigate its effects on agriculture.

**Q15. What is the primary impact of frost on crops as described in the passage?**

- (a) Encourages rapid growth due to sudden temperature changes
- (b) Enhances the nutritional quality of crops by freezing
- (c) Leads to significant damage by freezing water inside plant cells
- (d) Increases the resistance of crops to pests and diseases
- (e) Stimulates earlier flowering and fruiting in the growing season

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The passage directly addresses the impact of frost on crops by stating, "**This sudden temperature plunge causes the water inside plant cells to freeze, expanding and rupturing cell walls. The result is significant damage to tender new growth, which is critical for the season's yield.**" This line from the passage supports the answer by explaining the process through which frost causes damage to crops. When the water inside plant cells freezes, it expands, leading to the rupture of cell walls. This mechanical damage to the plant cells is what results in significant harm to the crops, particularly affecting the new growth that is vital for the agricultural yield of the season.

**Directions: {17-23} Read the following passage and answer the following questions. Some words are highlighted to help you answer some of the questions.**

The Panchayati Raj, first adopted by Nagaur in Rajasthan on October 2, 1959, has expanded vastly. There are now 2,60,512 Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) represented by about 31 lakh elected members across India. This system of local self-governance, where people in the villages participate in the decision-making process, is the backbone of democracy. The People's Plan Campaign and Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard, rolled out this year, aspire to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system by making gram sabhas more vibrant. Unlike other disasters like earthquakes, COVID-19 is an unusual crisis as it is long-drawn and affects people everywhere. When the traditional top-down disaster response system was compromised during the bad months of the pandemic, it was PRIs that played a remarkable role. They helped reduce risks, responded swiftly and thus helped people recover quickly. The PRIs provided essential leadership at the local level. They performed both regulatory and welfare functions. For instance, during the nationwide lockdown, PRIs set up containment zones, arranged transport, identified buildings for quarantining people and provisioned food for the incoming migrants. Moreover, effective implementation of welfare schemes like MGNREGA and the National Rural Livelihood Mission quickened the pace of recovery while ensuring support to the vulnerable population.

Gram sabhas act as a sounding board for diverse ideas and opinions. They provide a platform to build consensus and make resolutions in the community's interest. During the pandemic, gram sabhas resolved to adhere to COVID-19 norms. In addition, regular engagement with frontline workers like ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers through committees bridged the trust gap between the community



and the officials. By representing diverse communities, PRIs mobilize them effectively. During the COVID-19 crisis, they organized community-based surveillance systems involving village elders, the youth and self-help groups (SHGs) to keep a strict vigil in quarantine centers and monitor symptoms in households. More recently, their role in mobilizing citizens for COVID-19 vaccination is exemplary. The Yokohama strategy during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in May 1994 emphasized that it is important to focus on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness rather than disaster response alone, to reduce vulnerability. In this respect, certain initiatives can be taken to build the capacity of PRIs.

One, it is crucial to include disaster management chapters in Panchayat Raj Acts and make disaster planning and spending part of Panchayati Raj development plans and local-level committees. This will ensure citizen-centric mapping and planning of resources. Various insurance products customized to local needs will build the financial **resilience** of the community. Two, conducting regular location-specific training programs for the community and organizing platforms for sharing best practices will strengthen individual and institutional capacities. Assigning roles to individual members and providing them with the necessary skills can make such programs more meaningful. Three, since the community is usually the first responder in case of a disaster, community-based disaster management plans would help. These would provide a strategy for resource utilization and maintenance during a disaster. Moreover, financial contributions from the community should be encouraged through the establishment of community disaster funds in all gram panchayats. It is imperative to make disaster resilience an inherent part of the community culture now more than ever.

**Q17. What role did Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play during the pandemic?**

- (a) They aided in mitigating risk, quick response, and helping patients in recovering.
- (b) At the local level, the PRIs provided critical leadership.
- (c) They were in charge of both regulatory and community well-being functions.
- (d) They established containment zones and prepared food for the incoming migrants.
- (e) All of these

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** All of the given statements are correct with reference to the context of the question. Hence, option (e) is the right answer choice. Refer to the concluding sentences of the first paragraph, "They helped reduce risks, responded swiftly and thus helped people recover quickly. The PRIs provided essential leadership at the local level. They performed both regulatory and welfare functions. For instance, during the nationwide lockdown, PRIs set up containment zones, arranged transport, identified buildings for quarantining people and provisioned food for the incoming migrants."

**Q18. Which of the following statements about the Panchayati Raj System is/are correct?**

- (i) The Panchayati Raj has risen exponentially since its inception in 1959.
  - (ii) The Panchayati Raj System is a form of local self-government.
  - (iii) Leaders initiate the decision-making process in the Panchayati Raj System.
- (a) Only (i) and (iii)
  - (b) Only (ii)
  - (c) Only (i) and (ii)
  - (d) All of these
  - (e) Only (i)

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Among the given options, only (i) and (ii) are correct with reference to the information provided in the given passage about the Panchayati Raj System. While statement (iii) is incorrect as people themselves initiate the decision-making process in the Panchayati Raj System. Hence, option (c) is the right answer choice. Refer to the starting lines of the first paragraph, "The Panchayati Raj, first adopted by Nagaur in Rajasthan on October 2, 1959, has expanded vastly. There are now 2,60,512 Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) represented by about 31 lakh elected members across India. This system of local self-governance, where people in the villages participate in the decision-making process, is the backbone of democracy."

**Q19. How do Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) seek to empower diverse communities?**

- (a) By representing as a source of support for differing ideas and points of view.
- (b) By representing diverse communities and bridging the trust gap of them with officials.
- (c) By providing a forum for reaching consensus and making decisions in the best interests of the community.
- (d) All of these
- (e) Only (a) and (c)

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** All of the given statements are correct with reference to the context of the question. Hence, option (d) is the right answer choice.

Refer to the starting lines of the second paragraph, "Gram sabhas act as a sounding board for diverse ideas and opinions. They provide a platform to build consensus and make resolutions in the community's interest. During the pandemic, gram sabhas resolved to adhere to COVID-19 norms. In addition, regular engagement with frontline workers like ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers through committees bridged the trust gap between the community and the officials. By representing diverse communities, PRIs mobilize them effectively."

**Q20. Why is it vital to include disaster management chapters in the Panchayati Raj Act as per the information provided in the given passage?**

- (a) To tailor various insurance products to local needs in order to shore up the public's financial trends.
- (b) To ensure citizen-centric mapping and to undertake community-wide training programs on a routine basis.
- (c) To assign roles to individuals and providing them with the necessary expertise.
- (d) Only (a) and (b)
- (e) Only (b) and (c)

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Among the given options, only (b) and (c) are correct. While statement (a) is not contextual in meaning with respect to the context of the question. Hence, option (e) is the right answer choice. Refer to the starting lines of the third paragraph, "One, it is crucial to include disaster management chapters in Panchayat Raj Acts and make disaster planning and spending part of Panchayati Raj development plans and local-level committees. This will ensure citizen-centric mapping and planning of resources. Various insurance products customized to local needs will build the financial resilience of the community. Two, conducting regular location-specific training programs for the community and organizing platforms for sharing best practices will strengthen individual and institutional capacities."

**Q21. Which of the following was/were the result(s) of the Yokohama strategy during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction?**

- (a) It stressed the importance of disaster prevention and mitigation.
- (b) It highlighted the importance of readiness over disaster response alone.
- (c) To reduce vulnerability, it emphasized only quick decisions in disaster response.
- (d) Only (a) and (b)
- (e) Only (a) and (c)

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Among the given options, only (a) and (b) are correct. Hence, option (d) is the right answer choice. Refer to the concluding lines of the second paragraph, "The Yokohama strategy during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in May 1994 emphasized that it is important to focus on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness rather than disaster response alone, to reduce vulnerability. In this respect, certain initiatives can be taken to build the capacity of PRIs."

**Q22. Why is the Panchayati Raj System referred to as the "backbone of democracy"?**

- (a) Because it was first adopted in Nagaur, Rajasthan.
- (b) Because Panchayati Raj represents approximately 31 lakh elected members throughout India.
- (c) Because people in the villages are involved in decision-making.
- (d) Because Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) aid in risk reduction and rapid response.
- (e) None of these

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The Panchayati Raj System is referred to as the "backbone of democracy" because it facilitates direct participation of people in the villages in the decision-making process. This involvement is essential for a functioning democracy as it ensures that the decisions reflect the needs and opinions of the local population, promoting self-governance and accountability at the grassroots level. Therefore, the correct answer is:

**(c) Because people in the villages are involved in decision-making.**

**Q23. Which of the following is/are the synonym(s) of the word 'RESILIENCE', as highlighted in the given passage?**

- (a) Strength
- (b) Toughness
- (c) Hardiness
- (d) Only (a) and (b)
- (e) All of these

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** All of the given words are synonyms of the word 'resilience' meaning 'the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness'. Hence, option (e) is the right answer choice. (a) Strength- a good quality or ability that somebody/something has

(b) Toughness- the ability to endure difficult conditions.

(c) Hardiness- the ability to deal with hardship or to cope in difficult situations.

**Directions {24-31}: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Some words in the passage have been highlighted to aid in answering the question.**

The bystander effect is a psychological phenomenon where individuals are less likely to offer help to a victim when other people are present. The greater the number of bystanders, the less likely it is that any one of them will help. Several factors contribute to this effect, including diffusion of responsibility, social influence, and ambiguity.

Diffusion of responsibility suggests that the presence of others leads to a spread of responsibility among all those present, reducing the pressure on any single individual to act. In a crowded setting, people often assume that someone else will take the initiative to help, leading to a situation where everyone waits for someone else to make the first move.

Social influence also plays a critical role. Individuals in a group look to the behaviour of others to guide their own actions. If bystanders appear unconcerned or indifferent, this can significantly discourage an individual from **intervening**. The normative social influence can strongly deter people from stepping out of their comfort zone to help a stranger in distress.

Ambiguity and uncertainty about the situation can further inhibit action. If it's not clear that help is needed or if the situation appears **potentially** dangerous, people are more likely to hesitate. This uncertainty, coupled with the fear of misinterpreting the situation or making it worse, can lead to inaction.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bystander effect are profound, particularly in emergency situations where immediate action can be the difference between life and death. Understanding this phenomenon is crucial for developing strategies to encourage people to overcome these psychological barriers and intervene when they witness someone in need. Training and public awareness campaigns can help people recognize the bystander effect and empower them to act decisively, fostering a more compassionate and proactive society.

**Q24. How does social sway alter one's emergency aid decision, per the narrative?**

- (a) It makes individuals wait for others to take the lead to avoid any responsibility.
- (b) It enhances the perception of personal responsibility among bystander's behaviours.
- (c) It directs to a higher likelihood of intervention behaviour with more witnesses.
- (d) It leads individuals to draw on the actions of others as guidance for their own behaviour.
- (e) It ensures a more coordinated and effective behavioural response to emergencies.

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "It leads individuals to draw on the actions of others as guidance for their own behaviour."

According to the passage, social influence leads individuals to draw on the actions of others as guidance for their own behaviour in emergency situations. This influence is significant because if bystanders appear unconcerned or indifferent, it discourages individual intervention.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Social influence also plays a critical role. Individuals in a group look to the behaviour of others to guide their own actions.

**Q25. What does "diffusion of responsibility" imply in a crowded setting?**

- (a) A collective confidence in the group's capacity to respond with an individual initiative
- (b) The faith that a larger group's presence naturally accelerates the intervention process
- (c) An insight on lessening of the burden on any individual to intervene in a challenging situation
- (d) The belief in spontaneous coordination among bystanders, resulting in a collective individual reaction.
- (e) The perception of an implicit delegation of action to more capable individuals within the crowd

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "An insight on lessening of the burden on any individual to intervene in a challenging situation".

Diffusion of responsibility" in a crowded setting implies a lessening of the burden on any individual to intervene in a challenging situation. This phenomenon occurs because the presence of additional people leads each person to feel less personally responsible for taking action, under the assumption that someone else in the group will step forward.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Diffusion of responsibility suggests that the presence of others leads to a spread of responsibility among all those present, reducing the pressure on any single individual to act.

**Q26. Why might people hesitate to act in situations where the need for help is not immediately clear?**

- (a) A belief in the collective judgment of others present to assess the necessity for intervention.
- (b) The apprehension about potential legal or social repercussions from misjudged involvement.
- (c) The concern about societal judgment for overreacting or misreading the scenario.
- (d) The complexity lies in the apprehension of misinterpreting or exacerbating the situation.
- (e) A tendency to gauge the consensus of bystander reactions before initiating help.

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "The complexity lies in the apprehension of misinterpreting or exacerbating the situation."

This concern about potentially making matters worse or not accurately understanding the emergency at hand leads to inaction.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: This uncertainty, coupled with the fear of misinterpreting the situation or making it worse, can lead to inaction.

**Q27. What is the purpose of understanding the bystander effect as described in the passage?**

- (a) To create strategies that help people address psychological barriers and take action.
- (b) To enhance community activities through group psychology understanding.
- (c) To promote personal growth and psychological self-awareness among individuals.
- (d) To increase academic knowledge and research in social psychology.
- (e) To improve workplace efficiency through better group dynamics.

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct answer to the question about the purpose of understanding the bystander effect, according to the passage, is:

(a) **To create strategies that help people address psychological barriers and take action.**

This answer is supported by the specific lines from the passage:

"Understanding this phenomenon is crucial for developing strategies to encourage people to overcome these psychological barriers and intervene when they witness someone in need."

These lines directly link the understanding of the bystander effect to the development of strategies aimed at encouraging individuals to act when they see someone in need, aligning precisely with option (a)

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**Q28. Which of the following is the correct statement(s) based on the passage given?**

- (I) The presence of others augments the likelihood of offering assistance due to the bystander effect.
  - (II) Social norms deter people from aiding those in trouble, pushing them beyond their usual boundaries.
  - (III) Consciousness-raising efforts can highlight the bystander effect, fostering an empathetic, engaged society.
- (a) Only (II)
  - (b) Both (I) & (III)
  - (c) Only (I)
  - (d) Both (II) & (III)
  - (e) All of the above

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "**Both (II) & (III)**".

(I) incorrectly states that the presence of others augments the likelihood of offering assistance, which contradicts the bystander effect's premise that individuals are less likely to offer help when others are present.

**Refer to the lines from the passage:** The bystander effect is a psychological phenomenon where individuals are less likely to offer help to a victim when other people are present.

(II) accurately reflects the concept that social norms can inhibit individuals from assisting strangers in distress, aligning with the passage's description of normative social influence.

**Refer to the lines from the passage:** The normative social influence can strongly deter people from stepping out of their comfort zone to help a stranger in distress.

(III) correctly suggests that consciousness-raising (public awareness) efforts aim to highlight the bystander effect and foster an empathetic, engaged society, which is consistent with the passage's message on the impact of training and public awareness initiatives.

**Refer to the lines from the passage:** Training and public awareness campaigns can help people recognize the bystander effect and empower them to act decisively, fostering a more compassionate and proactive society.

**Q29. Which of the following fits appropriately in the blank given in the passage?**

- (a) deliberation
- (b) implications
- (c) suspensions
- (d) reconciliations
- (e) illustrations

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “implications”.

The term "implications" refers to the consequences or effects of a particular action or phenomenon, which accurately reflects the context of the passage.

- (a) Deliberation: The careful consideration or discussion of a subject.
- (b) Implications: The potential consequences or effects of an action or event.
- (c) Suspensions: The temporary cessation or interruption of something.
- (d) Reconciliations: The restoration of friendly relations or resolution of conflicts.
- (e) Illustrations: Visual representations or examples used to clarify or explain something.

**Q30. Which of the following is the antonym of the word “intervening” highlighted in the passage?**

- (a) bolstering
- (b) mediating
- (c) indulging
- (d) sustaining
- (e) obviating

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The antonym of the word “ **intervening**” highlighted in the passage is “ **obviating**”.

The passage discusses how the apparent indifference or lack of concern from bystanders can discourage an individual from taking action. Here, "intervening" implies stepping in or taking action to address a situation. In this context, the opposite of intervening would be to prevent or make unnecessary, which aligns with the meaning of "obviating."

- (a) Bolstering: Providing support, reinforcement, or strengthening something.
- (b) Mediating: Intervening in a dispute or conflict to facilitate communication or negotiation between parties.
- (c) Indulging: Yielding to desires or whims, often excessively or without restraint.
- (d) Sustaining: Maintaining or upholding something, often over a prolonged period.
- (e) Obviating: Preventing or eliminating the need for something; making it unnecessary.

**Q31. Which of the following is the synonym of the word “potentially” highlighted in the passage?**

- (a) viciously
- (b) discreetly
- (c) conceivably
- (d) courteously
- (e) justifiably

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The synonym of the word “ **potentially**” highlighted in the passage is “conceivably”.

In this passage, "potentially" indicates the possibility of danger. A synonym that fits this context is "conceivably," meaning capable of being imagined or considered. Therefore, "conceivably" is the appropriate choice as it aligns with the idea of potential danger in the situation.

- (a) Viciously: Acting with cruelty or aggression.
- (b) Discreetly: Acting in a careful or cautious manner to avoid attracting attention.
- (c) Conceivably: Capable of being imagined or considered.
- (d) Courteously: Behaving in a polite and respectful manner towards others.
- (e) Justifiably: In a manner that is reasonable or morally acceptable given the circumstances.

**Directions: {32-40}: Read the given passage and answer the following questions.**

The psychological profiles of historical leaders such as Napoleon Bonaparte and Winston Churchill offer fascinating insights into how their personal traits influenced major historical events. Napoleon, born into a modest family in Corsica, displayed an exceptional aptitude for military strategy, which was underpinned by a strong sense of ambition and an unyielding drive for power.

His personality can be characterized by a tremendous **resilience** and an ability to inspire loyalty among his troops. However, his leadership style also bore the hallmarks of authoritarianism, marked by a thirst for control that ultimately led to his downfall. His decision to invade Russia, driven by overconfidence and a desire to expand his empire, resulted in catastrophic losses which significantly weakened his reign.

Winston Churchill, in contrast, is celebrated for his indomitable spirit and eloquence, which buoyed the British public during the darkest days of World War II. His resilience in the face of adversity and his ability to communicate effectively were critical in maintaining morale during the Blitz. Churchill's leadership style was inclusive and motivational, drawing on a deep belief in democratic values and freedom. Unlike Napoleon, Churchill's psychological makeup was heavily influenced by a sense of duty and an unwavering commitment to his country, which guided his decisions during the war.

Both leaders, though separated by a century and differing political contexts, shared traits such as decisiveness and a **formidable** will to succeed. However, their psychological approaches to leadership varied greatly. Napoleon's autocratic methods and relentless pursuit of expansion often isolated him, whereas Churchill's focus on unity and moral fortitude fostered widespread support and collaboration.

Analyzing these leaders through a psychological lens reveals how personal characteristics can shape not only individual destinies but also the courses of entire nations. Napoleon's overreach and eventual exile \_\_\_\_\_ the dangers of hubris and centralization of power. In contrast, Churchill's ability to leverage his personal strengths to rally a nation highlights the potential for psychological resilience and visionary leadership to effect positive historical outcomes. Understanding these psychological dimensions provides deeper insights into the pivotal roles these figures played in shaping world history.

**Q32. Which trait primarily propelled Napoleon's military strategies?**

- (a) His innate democratic values influenced his tactical decisions on the battlefield.
- (b) An unyielding drive for power underpinned his exceptional military strategic planning.
- (c) A background in diplomacy gave him an edge in military logistics.
- (d) His extraordinary upbringing fostered a cautious approach to warfare.
- (e) Napoleon's aggressive tactics were a result of his formal education in France.

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "An unyielding drive for power underpinned his exceptional military strategic planning."

According to the passage, Napoleon's military strategies were significantly shaped by his unyielding drive for power, aligning perfectly with the correct option.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Napoleon, born into a modest family in Corsica, displayed an exceptional aptitude for military strategy, which was underpinned by a strong sense of ambition and an unyielding drive for power.

**Q33. How did Napoleon's authoritarian leadership style contribute to his downfall?**

- (a) It created a rigid command hierarchy that limited adaptability in military strategies.
- (b) His desire for control led to overreaching decisions like the ill-fated invasion of Russia.
- (c) His style resulted in diplomatic isolation and a critical lack of allies in key moments.
- (d) It spurred internal conflicts, undermining political stability within his administration.
- (e) His perceived overly liberal policies caused unrest among conservative military ranks.

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct option is "His desire for control led to overreaching decisions like the ill-fated invasion of Russia."

According to the passage, Napoleon's authoritarian trait of seeking excessive control resulted in strategic errors including the disastrous invasion of Russia.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: His decision to invade Russia, driven by overconfidence and a desire to expand his empire, resulted in catastrophic losses which significantly weakened his reign.

**Q34. How did Churchill's psychological makeup influence his wartime decisions?**

- (a) His decisions were guided by a sense of duty and commitment to his country.
- (b) His desire for personal recognition often steered his strategic military choices.
- (c) His need for approval from the public and peers shaped his approach to leadership.
- (d) His fear of defeat influenced his preference for cautious military strategies.
- (e) His belief in strict authoritarian control to maintain order during the war.

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “His decisions were guided by a sense of duty and commitment to his country.”

The passage highlights Churchill's sense of duty and commitment as guiding principles in his wartime leadership.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Churchill's psychological makeup was heavily influenced by a sense of duty and an unwavering commitment to his country, which guided his decisions during the war.

**Q35. How did Napoleon's and Churchill's leadership styles differ in terms of their psychological approach?**

- (a) Napoleon's authoritarian style often isolated him, while Churchill's inclusive approach fostered widespread support.
- (b) Napoleon relied on diplomatic tactics, whereas Churchill preferred direct military actions.
- (c) Both leaders used their authoritative influence to suppress opposition within their governments.
- (d) Churchill's strategies were primarily focused on expansion, contrasting Napoleon's defensive tactics.
- (e) Napoleon's focus on military prowess was matched by Churchill's emphasis on economic strategies.

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “Napoleon's autocratic style often isolated him, while Churchill's inclusive approach fostered widespread support.”

According to the passage, Napoleon's autocratic methods contrasted with Churchill's focus on unity and moral fortitude, which garnered him broader support.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Napoleon's autocratic methods and relentless pursuit of expansion often isolated him, whereas Churchill's focus on unity and moral fortitude fostered widespread support and collaboration.

**Q36. What insights can be gained from comparing the psychological dimensions of Napoleon and Churchill's leadership?**

- (a) Their psychological traits show how personal characteristics can shape national destinies.
- (b) Comparison shows that both leaders favored aggressive expansionism to secure their legacies.
- (c) It reveals that both had a tendency for democratic governance despite their different outcomes.
- (d) The comparison indicates that psychological traits are less influential than economic conditions.
- (e) It suggests that military strategies are more pivotal than psychological traits in leadership.

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “Their psychological traits show how personal characteristics can shape national destinies.”

The passage suggests that analyzing the psychological traits of Napoleon and Churchill can show how such characteristics impact the fate of nations, directly supporting the correct option.

To validate the answer, refer to the lines from the passage: Understanding these psychological dimensions provides deeper insights into the pivotal roles these figures played in shaping world history.

**Q37. What is the tone of the passage?**

- (a) cynical
- (b) assertive
- (c) analytical
- (d) humorous
- (e) caustic

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “analytical.”

The correct tone of the passage is analytical, as it critically examines how personal traits influenced the historical roles of Napoleon and Churchill. The tone involves a detailed exploration of their psychological profiles and their impacts on historical events.

- (a) **cynical** - Expressing a belief that people are motivated purely by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity.
- (b) **assertive** - Confident and direct in claiming one’s rights or putting forward one’s views.
- (c) **analytical** - Relating to or using analysis or logical reasoning.
- (d) **humorous** - Characterized by humor; funny and entertaining.
- (e) **caustic** - Sarcastically biting or cutting; able to burn or corrode organic tissue by chemical action.

**Q38. Choose a synonym for the word "resilience" as it is used in the passage.**

- (a) essence
- (b) commence
- (c) rigidity
- (d) persistence
- (e) defiance

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “persistence.”

In the context of the passage, "resilience" refers to Napoleon's ability to endure hardships and continue striving towards his goals despite setbacks. The term "persistence" best matches this sense, as it conveys a similar meaning of continuing steadily despite difficulties.

- (a) **Essence:** The intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something that determines its character.
- (b) **Commence:** To begin or start something.
- (c) **Rigidity:** The quality of being inflexible, stiff, or unyielding.
- (d) **Persistence:** The firm continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.
- (e) **Defiance:** Open resistance; bold disobedience.

**Q39. Which of the following fits appropriately in the given blank?**

- (a) illustrate
- (b) estimate
- (c) elevate
- (d) navigate
- (e) activate

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The correct option is “illustrate.”

The correct word to complete the sentence is "illustrate." In this context, Napoleon's actions and their consequences serve as examples that demonstrate or "illustrate" the dangers of hubris and the centralization of power. (a) **Illustrate:** To explain or make something clear by using examples, pictures, or diagrams.

- (b) Estimate: To roughly calculate or judge the value, number, quantity, or extent of something.  
(c) Elevate: To raise something to a higher position; to lift up.  
(d) Navigate: To plan and direct the path or route; often used in the context of ships or aircraft.  
(e) Activate: To set in motion, make active or more active; to operate.

**Q40.** Choose an antonym for the word "formidable" as it is used in the passage.

- (a) complex  
(b) alarming  
(c) intimidating  
(d) rigorous  
(e) feeble

**Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The word "formidable" in the passage describes something or someone that inspires fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. The correct antonym for "formidable" would be a word that conveys a lack of strength, power, or capability.

- (a) Complex: Consisting of many different and connected parts, not simple or easy to understand.  
(b) Alarming: Causing worry or fear, especially about a potentially dangerous situation.  
(c) Intimidating: Tending to make one feel frightened or overawed, especially in a way that discourages initiative.  
(d) Rigorous: Extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate; involving rigorous standards.  
(e) feeble: it describes something weak or lacking strength.

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