

Quiz Date: 12th May 2020

Directions (1-5): Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which one sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate/coherent way.

Q1. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered the farthest individual star ever seen — an enormous blue stellar body nicknamed Icarus located over halfway across the universe. The star, harboured in a very distant spiral galaxy, is so far away that its light has taken nine billion years to reach Earth. It appears to us as it did when the universe was about 30% of its current age. Normally, the star would be too faint to view, even with the world's largest telescopes. _____ "This is the first time we're seeing a magnified, individual star," said Patrick Kelly, who led the study as a postdoctoral fellow in University of California at Berkeley.

- (a) However, through a phenomenon called gravitational lensing that tremendously amplifies the star's feeble glow, astronomers were able to pinpoint this faraway star and set a new distance record.
- (b) The discovery of Icarus through gravitational lensing has initiated a new way for astronomers to study individual stars in distant galaxies.
- (c) Located about 5 billion light-years from Earth, this massive cluster of galaxies sits between the Earth and the galaxy that contains the distant star.
- (d) Setting a new distance record, astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have discovered an enormous blue star nicknamed "Icarus", the farthest individual star ever seen.
- (e) "You can see individual galaxies out there, but this star is at least 100 times farther away than the next individual star we can study, except for supernova explosions," said Kelly, who is now at the University of Minnesota in the US.

Q2. Mahatma Gandhi came from a poor family, and he had dropped out of the cheapest college he could afford. Mavji Dave Joshiji, a Brahmin priest and family friend, advised Gandhi and his family that he should consider law studies in London. In July 1888, his wife Kasturba gave birth to their first surviving son, Harilal. His mother was not comfortable about Gandhi leaving his wife and family, and going so far from home. Gandhi's uncle Tulsidas also tried to dissuade his nephew. Gandhi wanted to go. To persuade his mother Putlibai, Gandhi made a vow in front of his mother that he would abstain from meat, alcohol and women. Gandhi's brother Laxmidas, who was already a lawyer, cheered Gandhi's London studies plan and offered to support him. _____.

- (a) They encouraged Gandhi to join them in reading the Bhagavad Gita both in translation as well as in the original.
- (b) In London, Gandhi studied law and jurisprudence and enrolled at the Inner Temple with the intention of becoming a barrister.
- (c) Gandhi, at age 22, was called to the bar in June 1891 and then left London for India, where he learned that his mother had died while he was in London and that his family had kept the news from him.
- (d) Putlibai gave Gandhi her permission and blessing.
- (e) None of these

Q3. _____ In some countries, bananas used for cooking may be called plantains, in contrast to dessert bananas. The fruit is variable in size, color, and firmness, but is usually elongated and curved, with soft flesh rich in starch covered with a rind, which may be green, yellow, red, purple, or brown when ripe. The fruits grow in clusters hanging from the top of the plant. Almost all modern edible parthenocarpic (seedless) bananas come from two wild species – *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*. The scientific names of most cultivated bananas are *Musa acuminata*, *Musa balbisiana*, and *Musa × paradisiaca* for the hybrid *Musa acuminata* × *M. balbisiana*, depending on their genomic constitution. The old scientific name *Musa sapientum* is no longer used.

- (a) The banana fruits develop from the banana heart, in a large hanging cluster, made up of tiers.
(b) A banana is an edible fruit – botanically a berry – produced by several kinds of large herbaceous flowering plants in the genus Musa.
(c) There are fuzzy bananas whose skins are bubblegum pink; green-and-white striped bananas with pulp the color of orange sherbet; bananas that, when cooked, taste like strawberries.
(d) All the above-ground parts of a banana plant grow from a structure usually called a "corm".
(e) Farmers in Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea first domesticated bananas.

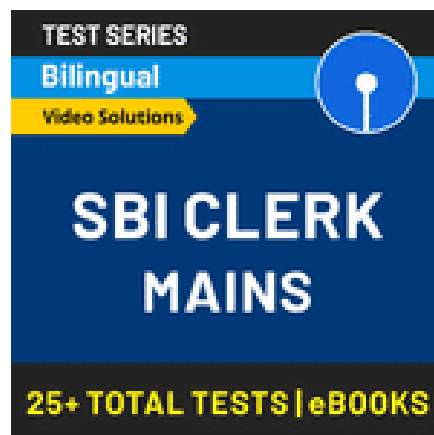
Q4. _____, protein from nuts and seeds could be beneficial for the human heart, suggests a study including more than 80,000 participants. The study, appearing in the International Journal of Epidemiology, found that people who consumed large amounts of meat protein experienced a 60 per cent increase in cardiovascular disease (CVD), while people who consumed large amounts of protein from nuts and seeds experienced a 40-per cent reduction in CVD.

- (a) It can help you lose weight (especially belly fat), and increase your muscle mass and strength, to name a few
(b) many health and fitness experts believe that we need much more protein than what we get
(c) While eating red meat that is rich in protein is linked with increased risk of heart disease
(d) Almonds are loaded with high protein including other important nutrients, fiber, vitamin E manganese and magnesium
(e) none of these

Q5. LED lamps are often promoted as energy-efficient lighting for both inside the home and outside. However, experts say that LED lighting -- if not installed in moderation -- could affect our health. Blue light exposure disrupts our body's ability to produce melatonin, a hormone that helps us fall asleep.

_____ Many studies have suggested that blue light emitted by our mobile phones and laptops is disruptive because its short wavelength tells our brain to stay alert.

- (a) The United States Department of Energy has claimed that LED lights are no more harmful than any other lighting.
(b) We should ensure that lighting products meet photobiological safety standards, says Lighting Designer and Educator Anil Valia.
(c) When this process is disrupted, our body's clock goes off rhythm.
(d) Modern LED street lights which are cheaper to run and have lower emissions 'damage people's eyesight and dazzle motorists'.
(e) none of these



Directions (6-15): **In the following questions, a phrase/idiom is given in bold whose meaning can be inferred from one of the highlighted words/phrases of four sentences given below each phrase. Choose the most appropriate meaning of the phrase among the four options that can also be replaced by the given phrase without altering the meaning of the sentence. If none of the sentences conveys the correct meaning, choose (e) i.e., "None of the above" as your answer.**

Q6. burn the candle at both ends

- (a) Solving customer crises is a delicate balance, and to make matters more complicated, no two **angry** customers are alike. Some take to social media platforms like YouTube and Twitter while others leave reviews on Yelp and Google.
- (b) He added that "our men are **working day and night** to make sure that crashes do not happen and eventually if it happens, our men are expected to be there within 15 minutes to rescue victims".
- (c) After years of turmoil in Central African Republic thousands have lost their lives; many more lost their homes, logging companies were plundered, vehicles stolen, machines and other timber production equipment **ransacked**.
- (d) 'During road rage, will the driver-less car **fight** for us? ', worried Indian asks Elon Musk.
- (e) none of these

Q7. A hot potato

- (a) Saudi Arabia's crown prince said Iran, Turkey and extremist groups represent a "triangle of **evil**," and predicted the kingdom's confrontation with Gulf Arab neighbor Qatar could last for years.
- (b) The Actor who played Stephen Hawking in Theory of Everything, said in a statement: "We have lost a truly **beautiful mind**, an astonishing scientist and the funniest man I have ever had the pleasure to meet. "
- (c) World Against Toys Causing Harm (WATCH) urged countries to ban the most **dangerous** kid's toys that could lead to injury – or death.
- (d) Beijing, which claims more than 80% of the South China Sea, is ramping up its military presence and accelerating construction on **disputed** desert islands.
- (e) none of these

Q8. Back to the drawing board

- (a) The star of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" Jim Carrey is **making new paintings** and raising eyebrows of political class with anti-Trump and anti-Republicans themes.
- (b) Students should always stay motivated and whatever task they find most odious, they should move to the front of the line and **finish** it first.
- (c) People should always ask themselves one question time and again: How do you know if you're on the road to **achieve** success or on the road to failure?
- (d) After the death of a woman in Florida from accident caused by self-driving car of Uber, the self-driving technology is **starting it all over again** from scratch.
- (e) none of these

Q9. be glad to see the back of

- (a) "I'm so happy I'm getting my life back. I'll be glad to see the dialysis **gone**, but I will miss the nurses and the other patients that I've gotten to know in recent times" said the patient struggling with dialysis.
- (b) Former British high jumper Mike Edwards has accused the IAAF of **cowardice** with the rules of athletics' governing body set to bar him from representing Nigeria at the Commonwealth Games.
- (c) This has been a terribly **sad** time for clowns, those purveyors of happiness whose recorded history dates back to ancient Greece.
- (d) China's **runaway** space station Tiangong-1 is all set to re-enter Earth's atmosphere.
- (e) none of these

Q10. Blessing in disguise

- (a) Before the 2018 event, no North Carolina team had advanced past the first round, but the falcons made that old history **fade away**.
- (b) A charity shop worker was left stunned after someone donated an **old** book containing handwritten notes from her own father 50 years after his death.
- (c) There has been a greater **recognition** lately of town hall and other municipal buildings as symbols of the localities that built them and the residents who use them.
- (d) Gold prices rose on Monday after three consecutive sessions of falls as the dollar eased amid **fresh** concerns of trade tensions between the United States and China.
- (e) none of these

**Q11. UNDER THE WEATHER**

- (a) The lazy worker lied and told his boss he was **indisposed** because he did not want to go into the office.
- (b) The officers were still reluctant to **unleash** their troops in pursuit of a defeated enemy.
- (c) Despite the **surreal** experience, Jessi saw something in his face that reminded her of the cousins.
- (d) He **turned off** only to find he was trapped in a town square with no easy exit.
- (e) none of the above

Q12. LOW HANGING FRUIT

- (a) For the beauty-care industry, the teen demographic is a new category for them to **easily obtain**.
- (b) Many people consider her decision to be a **breach** of trust.
- (c) Voters don't like political advertisements in which opponents **disparage** one another.
- (d) The next morning, she was **very docile**, but evidently homesick.
- (e) none of the above

Q13. THE DEVIL IS ON THE DETAIL

- (a) School districts are incredibly **chary** about hiring people with criminal backgrounds.
- (b) She shrugged with as much elegance as she could muster, and eyed him with **deliberate interest**.
- (c) The little girl was so **disconsolate** after her puppy ran away that her parents put up posters all over the neighborhood.
- (d) There are **overlooked problems** in experimenting with people in behavioral intervention trials
- (e) none of the above

Q14. RED HERRING

- (a) Since the airline lost two of my bags, I have **scanty** clothing for my vacation.
- (b) Christian suppressed his political opponents under the **pretense** of defending an ecclesiastical system which in his heart he despised.

- (c) She **squinted** towards the blazing buildings to see a dark figure half-trotting, half-limping towards them.
- (d) It was not difficult to **discern** that Ellen killed her husband for the million-dollar life insurance policy.
- (e) none of these

Q15. CUTTING CORNERS

- (a) Even though my doctor has been **brusque** with me at times, I still like him because he is generally a nice person.
- (b) The **miserly** billionaire complained about paying two dollars for a cheeseburger.
- (c) Because I have a limited amount of money, I am trying to **economize** and spend less on food than I usually do.
- (d) Although Ms. Priya is a beautiful and talented actress, she has a reputation for being **churlish** and difficult to get along with.
- (e) none of these



Solutions

S1. Ans. (a)

Sol. The statement just before the blank says that the star could not be identified even with the best of the telescopes so it is obvious that the next sentence would be how come they found the star which has been explained in (a).

(b) cannot be the answer as it talks about newer discoveries through gravitational lensing but not anything about 'gravitational lensing' itself.

(d) cannot be the answer as the statement just before the blank says that the star could not be identified even with the best of the telescopes but (d) does not explain that if the best telescopes cannot identify the star then how come Hubble telescope identified it but (a) explains it.

S2. Ans. (d)

Sol. The paragraph talks about Mahatma Gandhi urging his mother and wife to allow him to go to London. Therefore, the blank must be filled with something related to that hence (d) fills the blank appropriately as he was asking permission to leave from his wife and mother and his wife allowed him in (d).

S3. Ans. (b)

Sol. Here choosing the correct answer between (b) and (c) can get very difficult. We have to first read the passage very carefully and here one can see that it is describing us what a banana is. It tells us that it is an edible fruit, its colour, size, shape, starch content, where the fruit grows in the plant, main species etc. therefore some sentence which gives a proper starter for an introduction would fit in the blank which is (b) as it gives the proper starter "what a banana is".

(c) cannot be our answer as it does not represent a proper starter instead it describes few types of bananas.

S4. Ans. (c)

Sol. Upon reading the passage it can be concluded that it is comparing between 2 protein diets i.e. red meat and nuts and seeds and their benefits of risks to CVD therefore the blank should be filled with a sentence which compares the two diets ('while' is used for comparing). The sentence after blank talks about good effects of protein from nuts and seeds. Therefore, the sentence which talks bad effects of red meat will fit the blank appropriately.

S5. Ans. (c)

Sol. The sentence before blank says that blue light exposure disrupts our body's ability to produce melatonin, a hormone that helps us fall asleep, (c) is just the continuity of that statement that this disruption affects our body's clock which is the reason for affecting our sleep hence (c) will fill the blank appropriately.

S6. Ans. (b)

Sol. burn the candle at both ends: To overwork or exhaust oneself by doing too many things, especially both late at night and early in the morning

Ransacked: go through (a place) stealing things and causing damage

S7. Ans. (d)

Sol. A hot potato: Speak of an issue (mostly current) which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed

China's illegal control of South China sea is a current and disputed topic hence (d) fits accurately with the meaning of "a hot potato" as South China sea is a hot potato.

S8. Ans. (d)

Sol. Back to the drawing board: When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over

The self-driving car technology by Uber failed when it couldn't recognise a woman on road and now it is back to the drawing board to start it all over again and re-innovate the technology hence (d) fits perfectly to the meaning of back to the drawing board.

S9. Ans. (a)

Sol. be glad to see the back of: Be happy when a person or something leaves.

Here, a patient is talking about being happy when dialysis goes away (cured), which clearly signifies the meaning of the idiom '**be glad to see the back of**

Cowardice: lack of bravery

S10. Ans. (c)

Sol. Blessing in disguise: Something good that isn't recognized at first

Old townhall buildings or municipal buildings are the heritage of a city but they were not recognized earlier but now they are being recognized hence it conveys meaning of the given idiom.

S11. Ans. (a)

Sol. The idiom '**under the weather**' means *slightly unwell or in low spirits*. Moreover, '**indisposed**' which is an adjective means '*slightly unwell*'. Therefore, the most suitable word that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is 'indisposed'. Hence, **option (a)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Unleash means to cause (a strong or violent force) to be released or become unrestrained.

surreal means having the qualities of surrealism; bizarre.

Turned off means leave one road in order to join another.

S12. Ans. (a)

Sol. The idiom '**low hanging fruit**' means *the most easily achieved of a set of tasks, measures, goals, etc.* Moreover, '**obtain**' which is a verb means '*get, acquire, or secure (something)*'. Therefore, the most suitable phrase that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is 'easily obtain'. Hence, **option (a)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Breach means an act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.

Disparage means to regard or represent as being of little worth.

Docile means ready to accept control or instruction; submissive.

S13. Ans. (d)

Sol. The "**devil is in the detail**" is an idiom that *refers to a catch or mysterious element hidden in the details, meaning that something might seem simple at a first look but will take more time and effort to complete than expected.* Therefore, the most suitable phrase that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is '**overlooked problems**'. Hence, **option (d)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Chary means cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something.

Deliberate means done consciously and intentionally.

Disconsolate means very unhappy and unable to be comforted.

S14. Ans. (b)

Sol. A **red herring** is something that *misleads or distracts from a relevant or important issue. It may be either a logical fallacy or a literary device that leads readers or audiences towards a false conclusion.*

Moreover, '**pretense**' which is a noun which means '*an attempt to make something that is not the case appear true*'. Therefore, the most suitable phrase that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is 'pretense'. Hence, **option (b)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Scanty means small or insufficient in quantity or amount.

Squinted means to look at someone or something with one or both eyes partly closed in an attempt to see more clearly or as a reaction to strong light.

Discern means distinguish (someone or something) with difficulty by sight or with the other senses.

S15. Ans. (c)

Sol. The "**cutting corners**" is an idiom that *refers to do something perfunctorily so as to save time or money.* '**perfunctorily**' means *to done quickly and without showing that you care or have much interest:*

Therefore, the most suitable phrase that depicts the meaning of the given idiom without altering the context of the sentence is 'economize'. Hence, **option (c)** becomes the most viable answer choice.

Brusque means abrupt or offhand in speech or manner.

Miserly means of or characteristic of a miser.

Churlish means rude in a mean-spirited and surly way.

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