

## Cloze Test Questions for SBI Clerk Prelims Exam

**Directions (1-6):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been denoted by letters. For each blank, five options are given. Choose the most appropriate word from the options that fits the blank appropriately.

Exploration \_\_\_\_\_ (A) always been a fundamental part of human nature. From the earliest days of our species, we have \_\_\_\_\_ (B) out into the world, seeking new experiences, knowledge, and opportunities. Whether \_\_\_\_\_ (C) exploring the depths of the ocean, the vastness of space, or the uncharted territories of the human mind, the spirit of exploration \_\_\_\_\_ (D) us to push the boundaries of what is possible. And while the risks and challenges of exploration are many, the rewards can be equally great, from the \_\_\_\_\_ (E) of discovery to the satisfaction of accomplishment. Ultimately, the spirit of exploration is what drives us forward, \_\_\_\_\_ (F) us toward new frontiers and endless possibilities.

**Q1. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (A)?**

- (a) was
- (b) has
- (c) had
- (d) being
- (e) are

**Q2. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (B)?**

- (a) concerted
- (b) ventured
- (c) insulated
- (d) retarded
- (e) hindered

**Q3. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (C)?**

- (a) its
- (b) it has
- (c) it being
- (d) it's
- (e) it had

**Q4. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (D)?**

- (a) was driving
- (b) had driven
- (c) has driven
- (d) being drive
- (e) have driven

**Q5. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (E)?**

- (a) drill
- (b) peril
- (c) shell
- (d) thrill
- (e) shrill



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**Q6. Which of the following words will fit in the given blank (F)?**

- (a) repressing
- (b) propelling
- (c) terminating
- (d) relieving
- (e) quelling

**Directions (7-11): Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words to make a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence.**

British entrepreneur Jason Unsworth, who has \_\_\_(7)\_\_\_ interest in investing in the now grounded Jet Airways, has claimed that the lenders' \_\_\_(8)\_\_\_ leader State Bank of India (SBI) has asked him to formally submit a bid for the airline.

Unsworth is the Chief Executive Officer at Atmosphere Intercontinental Airlines, a startup he founded four years ago. An/A \_\_\_(9)\_\_\_ Twitter account of Unsworth said that state-run SBI has confirmed that he can still submit a bid for the airline.

The development comes days after the British entrepreneur evinced interest in investing in Jet Airways.

Last month, Jet had advised the British entrepreneur to formally \_\_\_(10)\_\_\_ in the matter through the ongoing bidding process.

The airline revealed its advice to Unsworth after domestic stock exchanges sought clarification from the temporarily grounded airline regarding a report which cited a British entrepreneur's offer to take control of the cash-strapped airline.

In its reply, Jet Airways had said: "Please note that a/an \_\_\_(11)\_\_\_ e-mail communication was received by the company and the sender has been advised to formally engage with SBI Caps Ltd, which is leading the bidding process under the resolution plan initiated by the consortium of domestic lenders led by the State Bank of India". At present, the domestic lenders of the temporarily grounded airline have called for binding bids from potential investors by May 10 to sell a sizeable stake in the company.

- Q7.** (a) Disclose  
(b) Evinced  
(c) Withheld  
(d) Swindled  
(e) None of these.

- Q8.** (a) Panacea  
(b) Links  
(c) Superiority  
(d) Consortium  
(e) None of these.

- Q9.** (a) Durable  
(b) Swift  
(c) Unverified  
(d) Diversified  
(e) None of these.

- Q10.** (a) Engage  
(b) Rejecting  
(c) Foresee  
(d) Deceive  
(e) None of these.

- Q11.** (a) Uncovered  
(b) Unconfirmed  
(c) Wearing  
(d) Stepped  
(e) None of these.

**Directions (12-16):** In the following passage, some of the words have been left out, each of which is indicated by a number. Find the suitable word from the options given against each number and fill up the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningfully complete.

It's close to 11 a.m., and a hum of conversation ebbs and flows as people check out the tables ....**(12)**..... with turmeric bulbs and fingers at the market hall in Nasiyanur.

Now in its 65th year, the association of 357 turmeric traders and warehouse operators, called 'Erode Manjal Vanigarkal Matrum Kidangu Urimaiyalarkal Sangam', is among the busiest in the country. Its market is open through the year, .....**(13)**..... with manjal or turmeric from Tamil Nadu and neighbouring States. The vast complex is 9 km from Erode, the city that's famously called manjal maanagaram or turmeric capital.

Today's session is well .....**(14)**..... — nearly 452 stands are up in the covered market hall, and customers slowly read the yellow cards that carry the details of the farms. The typical nutty fragrance of turmeric .....**(15)**..... the air, as potential buyers break the roots to test for colour and freshness. Nearly everyone I meet has fingertips tinged yellow.

And triumphantly, the office window displays the Geographical Indication (GI) tag that Erode turmeric won early this month. "The GI tag is a stamp of approval for our turmeric, and a .....**(16)**..... means for farmers and traders to add value to the local variety," says M. Sathyamurthy, the association secretary. "It gives us an exclusive identity in a crowded market, and also stops people from passing off inferior strains as Erode manjal," he says.

- Q12.** (a) quashed  
(b) ladled  
(c) anticipated  
(d) laden  
(e) galvanized

- Q13.** (a) spiked  
(b) stocked  
(c) confronted  
(d) incurred  
(e) shadowed

- Q14.** (a) rescinded  
(b) fled  
(c) attended  
(d) rebuffed  
(e) legitimized

- Q15.** (a) eludes  
(b) postulates  
(c) segregates  
(d) perishes  
(e) permeates

- Q16.** (a) unprecedented  
(b) vulnerable  
(c) disparaging  
(d) potential  
(e) frontal

**Directions (17-21):** In the following passage there are words highlighted in bold, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, four words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case. If the word highlighted in bold does not require any replacement, choose (e) as your answer.

The past couple of days have **distributed (17)** cheer to public sector banks. The promised recapitalisation of Rs2.1 trillion takes care of not only the provisioning requirements of public sector banks, but also provides them with growth **market (18)**. All requirements of public sector banks have been **intended(19)** at one stroke. Bank recapitalisation via special recapitalisation bonds is a/an **aggregate(20)** the government used in the 1980-1990s. Between financial years (FY) 1985-1999, the government **enlivened(21)** Rs204 billion into public sector banks via recapitalisation bonds.

- Q17.** (a) contributed  
(b) accrued  
(c) brought  
(d) regulated  
(e) No improvement required

- Q18.** (a) capital  
(b) principle  
(c) choice  
(d) resources  
(e) No improvement required

- Q19.** (a) addressed  
(b) confronted  
(c) beseeched  
(d) implored  
(e) No improvement required

- Q20.** (a) orate  
(b) approach  
(c) spout  
(d) viewpoint  
(e) No improvement required

- Q21.** (a) merged  
(b) decocted  
(c) infused  
(d) transfused  
(e) No improvement required

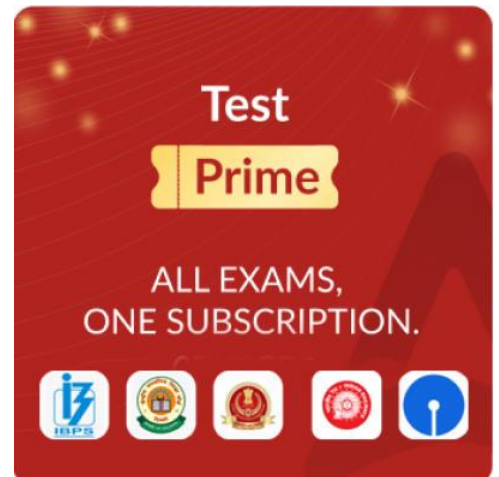
**Directions (22-26):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered and one word has been suggested alongside the blank. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. Find out the appropriate word which may replace the word given in bold appropriately. If the word written alongside the blank fits the passage, choose option 'e' (No replacement required) as the correct choice.

It was just another birthday gift that my daughter presented me on my sixtieth birthday. But when I **(22) got** the packet, it had a smart phone inside. My first reaction was a mild **(23) joy** to my daughter. Though I was happy inside that my child had saved money from her **(24) vulnerable** salary and brought this gift for me, I politely showed a slight displeasure over the waste of her hard-earned money.

I had always been **(25) addicted** to modern gadgets and was of the strong opinion that this **(26) support** of technology in our life had damaged the fine fabric of human relations.

- Q22.** (a) received  
(b) unwrapped  
(c) discovered  
(d) found  
(e) no replacement required

- Q23.** (a) ache  
(b) grief  
(c) delight  
(d) snub  
(e) no replacement required



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- Q24.** (a) stingy  
(b) important  
(c) substantial  
(d) paltry  
(e) no replacement required

- Q25.** (a) averse  
(b) fond  
(c) doting  
(d) desirous  
(e) no replacement required

- Q26.** (a) aggression  
(b) offense  
(c) platform  
(d) invasion  
(e) no replacement required

**Directions (27-31): Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words to make a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence.**

What is extraordinary about Sunday's Ukrainian presidential runoff is that it turned out to be so **(27)** \_\_\_\_\_. The comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, a rank political outsider until he announced his **(28)** \_\_\_\_\_ over New Year's Eve, recorded the expected landslide victory. He had consistently led in the opinion polls, way ahead of **(29)** \_\_\_\_\_ President Petro Poroshenko and a former Prime Minister. The political neophyte's prospects were enhanced by a sequence of events. In February, Ukraine's top court struck down an anti-corruption law in a setback for several prosecutions and **(30)** \_\_\_\_\_ aid flows to Kiev. Soon, Mr. Poroshenko was forced to ease out an ally in an arms trade scandal. The developments dented the government's image ahead of the elections in a country where the drive against graft has been a live issue for years. And a landslide became a probability with every passing day after Mr. Zelensky beat Mr. Poroshenko by a hefty margin in the first round of polling on March 31. Since Russia's **(31)** \_\_\_\_\_ of Ukrainian naval vessels in November, Mr. Poroshenko had pitched his campaign merely on the need to bolster national unity against the threat from Moscow, and assert Ukraine's unique national identity. But the final battle turned brutal and bitter, even if the rival candidates' campaigns were woefully short on substance. Mr. Poroshenko, an ex-oligarch in confectionaries, attacked his opponent as a puppet of another oligarch. The reference was to Igor Kolomoisky, whose TV channel ran Mr. Zelensky's popular show, and has business interests spanning finance and media. The commercial bank he owned was nationalised by the outgoing dispensation as part of an economic clean-up, and Mr. Kolomoisky may have sensed an opportunity in the election to settle scores.

- Q27.** (a) pernicious  
(b) noxious  
(c) predictable  
(d) trivial  
(e) worthless

- Q28.** (a) process  
(b) candidacy  
(c) boldness  
(d) audacity  
(e) greed

- Q29.** (a) incumbent  
(b) egregious  
(c) agitated  
(d) buoyant  
(e) effusive

- Q30.** (a) pouring  
(b) worrying  
(c) perplexing  
(d) tangling  
(e) jeopardising

- Q31.** (a) approval  
(b) appreciation  
(c) blessing  
(d) seizure  
(e) nepotism

**Directions (32-36):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered and one word has been suggested alongside the blank. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. In four options, one word is suggested in each option. Find out the appropriate option which fits the blank appropriately. If the word written alongside the blank fits the passage, choose option 'e' (No correction required) as the correct choice.

Conversations about the role of **firm (32)** working have shifted. It's no longer enough for companies to offer employees the option to either work from home or the office. Employees want to work from anywhere. Companies that want to attract and **abstain (33)** top talent, and ensure teams are highly productive, need to **retract (34)** their culture and technology to accommodate this shift in attitudes. And this is where the IT department can solidify its role as a valued **contributor (35)** to the success of a company, by implementing technologies that enable secure and remote collaboration. According to a recently commissioned Polycorn survey, 24,000 **preponderance (36)** across 12 countries indicate that nearly two-thirds of today's global workforce take advantage of the anywhere working model.

- Q32.** (a) timid  
(b) obliterate  
(c) tenable  
(d) flexible  
(e) No correction required

- Q33.** (a) profane  
(b) pertain  
(c) retain  
(d) refrain  
(e) No correction required

- Q34.** (a) bribe  
(b) contrive  
(c) Adapt  
(d) subsume  
(e) No correction required

- Q35.** (a) demotic  
(b) liberal  
(c) amenable  
(d) bamboozled  
(e) No correction required

- Q36.** (a) respondents  
(b) concurrence  
(c) sanction  
(d) agreements  
(e) No correction required.

**Directions (37-41):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered and one word has been suggested alongside the blank. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. In four options, one word is suggested in each option. Find out the appropriate option which fits the blank appropriately. If the word written alongside the blank fits the passage, choose option 'e' (No correction required) as the correct choice.

There is no doubt that WhatsApp, messages have played a key role in the **(37) improvements** that have taken place in the country recently, but how valid is it to place the blame on and acting against what is after all, a medium of circulating information. The argument against taking such a view has been made forcefully by many commentators. The real problem, they **(38) reoccur**, is not a messaging service, but the people who use it. The fact that WhatsApp is used all over the world without people lynching each other is proof that the problem is not **(39) emerging**, but its use in India. Using a similar argument, one could act against any mode of transmitting information, because of the effect that it might create. While it is easy to agree with the argument that the principal problem lies with the users of this service and not the service itself, that doesn't mean that no change is required in the way that we regulate new forms of media. Technology is not innocent, just because it carries no **(40) mischief** in its intent. The users might be responsible, but their usage is not independent of the technology; indeed, it is often deeply **(41) denigrated** in it.



- Q37.** (a) belongings  
(b) drawbacks  
(c) outskirts  
(d) lynchings  
(e) No correction required

- Q38.** (a) nectar  
(b) pertain  
(c) aver  
(d) prefer  
(e) No correction required

- Q39.** (a) science  
(b) concept  
(c) technology  
(d) succumb  
(e) No correction required

- Q40.** (a) grief  
(b) mischievous  
(c) rebuff  
(d) brief  
(e) No correction required

- Q41.** (a) embedded  
(b) reloaded  
(c) recruited  
(d) nominated  
(e) No correction required.

**Directions (42-47):** In the following passage, some of the words have been left out, each of which is indicated by a number. Find the suitable word from the options given against each number and fill up the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningfully complete.

The Wholesale Price Index as a measure of price gains is back in the national \_\_\_\_ (42) \_\_\_\_\_. The latest data, which show a sharp \_\_\_\_ (43) \_\_\_\_ in wholesale inflation in June, to a 54-month high of 5.77%, are a cause for concern. While the WPI is no longer the primary focus in the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-targeting approach to monetary policy formulation — having ceded that role to the Consumer Price Index — the gauge remains economically significant nevertheless. The measure of wholesale price gains is the key \_\_\_\_ (44) \_\_\_\_ in computing the Index of Industrial Production and is also used to deflate Gross Domestic Product at current prices. A detailed look at WPI data for June \_\_\_\_ (45) \_\_\_\_ several pressure points warranting closer macro-economic scrutiny. Not only have rising crude oil prices persistently \_\_\_\_ (46) \_\_\_\_ inflation — by contributing significantly to a 214 basis-points month-on-month jump in June for the primary articles group — they have also led to rapidly accelerating double-digit price \_\_\_\_ (47) \_\_\_\_ in the fuel and power group.

- Q42.** (a) Outrun  
(b) Eager  
(c) Spotlight  
(d) Conclusions  
(e) None of these.

- Q43.** (a) Inauspiciousness  
(b) Surge  
(c) Fiscal  
(d) Sufficiency  
(e) None of these.

- Q44.** (a) Deflator  
(b) Abroad  
(c) Disappointing  
(d) Enhanced  
(e) None of these.

- Q45.** (a) Extenuate  
(b) Tempts  
(c) Learnt  
(d) Reveals  
(e) None of these.

- Q46.** (a) Fanned  
(b) Obscure  
(c) Brought  
(d) Begin  
(e) None of these.

- Q47.** (a) Fondle  
(b) Consolidate  
(c) Gains  
(d) Reciprocates  
(e) None of these.

**Directions (48-53):** Choose the word given in the options that can fill the given blanks to make a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence. If none of the given options can fit the blank, then choose option (e), "None of these" as your answer.



The much-anticipated National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam saw its final publication on Saturday with just over 19 lakh people \_\_\_\_ (48) \_\_\_\_ from the list. Those who do not find themselves in the final NRC now will have to approach foreigners tribunals to \_\_\_\_ (49) \_\_\_\_ their cases. In fact, these tribunals are the only ones \_\_\_\_ (50) \_\_\_\_ to declare a person a foreigner. Hence, no coercive action should be taken against those not on the NRC. The NRC exercise has left almost everyone dismayed, including many original proponents. From All Assam Students' Union to Assam Public Works – the original petitioner in the Supreme Court whose plea led to updation of NRC – all have said that the final registry is \_\_\_\_ (51) \_\_\_\_\_. The state BJP, in opposing NRC, has said many citizens have been left out of the list while many foreigners have been \_\_\_\_ (52) \_\_\_\_\_. The truth is such an outcome is \_\_\_\_ (53) \_\_\_\_ in any such exercise, given the country's poor documentation culture. This would explain why a 16% rate of exclusion was earlier noted in Assam's tribal-dominated Karbi Anglong district. Much of this exercise, which cost Rs 12,000 crore of taxpayer's money, resembles chasing a phantom.

- Q48.** (a) Including  
(b) Excluded  
(c) Restriction  
(d) Commissioning  
(e) None of these.

- Q49.** (a) Appeal  
(b) Endure  
(c) Unjustified  
(d) Curtailment  
(e) None of these.

- Q50.** (a) Convince  
(b) Review  
(c) Extending  
(d) Authorised  
(e) None of these.

- Q51.** (a) Flawed  
(b) Correct  
(c) Ambiguity  
(d) Delegated  
(e) None of these.

- Q52.** (a) Changed  
(b) Included  
(c) Rejoiced  
(d) Briefed  
(e) None of these.



- Q53.** (a) Accumulate  
(b) Temporarily  
(c) Inevitable  
(d) Frequently  
(e) None of these.

**Directions (54-63):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, four options are given. Find the word which fits the blank most appropriately. If none of the four options fits the blank mark 'None of these' as your answer

Amazon has reported lower-than-expected profits in its second quarter of 2019, as it faces \_\_\_\_\_ (54) \_\_\_\_\_ opposition from lawmakers and consumers over its growing power. The company reported second-quarter earnings of \$2.6bn, or \$5.22 a share, up from \$5.07 this time last year but lower than analyst \_\_\_\_\_ (55) \_\_\_\_\_ of \$5.57 per share, sending stocks falling in after-hours trading.

The earnings report marks the end of a \_\_\_\_\_ (56) \_\_\_\_\_ of four straight quarters of record profit and come as Amazon is facing potential anti-trust actions from the federal government. Activists, Amazon employees, and consumers \_\_\_\_\_ (57) \_\_\_\_\_ in protests against the company on its annual Prime Day in July, a shopping event that made the company \$4bn in 2018, over labor and privacy practices.

The actions seemed not to \_\_\_\_\_ (58) \_\_\_\_\_ the bottom line for the company, which said Prime Day sales "surpassed the previous Black Friday and Cyber Monday combined". The company increased operating expenses by 21% in the quarter, investing \$800m in one-day delivery services, which chief financial officer Brian Olsavsky said has taken a hit to \_\_\_\_\_ (59) \_\_\_\_\_. "We expect we will be working through that for a number of quarters," he said. "It is a necessary to compete with \_\_\_\_\_ (60) \_\_\_\_\_ -and-mortar's speed advantage to the customer."

Amazon reported net sales of \$63.40bn in the second \_\_\_\_\_ (61) \_\_\_\_\_, up 20% from quarter one and beating estimates of \$62.48bn. Amazon's size makes missing profit expectations at this level less of a blow, said Nicholas Hyett, an equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. "Amazon's profit problem seems to \_\_\_\_\_ (62) \_\_\_\_\_ from the fact growth is no longer creating the operating leverage it once did, and very unflattering profit projections for next quarter suggest that's a problem which is here to stay for the time being, at least," he said, "Whether it's a growing pain or something longer lasting \_\_\_\_\_ (63) \_\_\_\_\_ to be seen."

- Q54.** (a) a good  
(b) a blue  
(c) a depth  
(d) an unprecedented  
(e) None of these

- Q55.** (a) estimates  
(b) statistics  
(c) standard  
(d) optional  
(e) None of these

**Q56.** (a) element  
(b) strain  
(c) streak  
(d) line  
(e) None of these

**Q57.** (a) engage  
(b) participated  
(c) partake  
(d) join  
(e) None of these

**Q58.** (a) affect  
(b) effect  
(c) perturbed  
(d) influenced  
(e) None of these

**Q59.** (a) expenditure  
(b) outlay  
(c) earnings  
(d) Disbursement  
(e) None of these

**Q60.** (a) stone  
(b) pestle  
(c) pebble  
(d) rock  
(e) None of these

**Q61.** (a) time  
(b) quarter  
(c) times  
(d) era  
(e) None of these

**Q62.** (a) decline  
(b) increase  
(c) raise  
(d) stem  
(e) None of these



- Q63.** (a) remain  
(b) remains  
(c) left  
(d) leave  
(e) None of these

**Directions (64-73)** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five options are given. Find the word which fits the blank most appropriately.

If India has increased its population of tigers to an estimated 2,967 individuals in 2018-19, putting behind \_\_\_\_\_ (64) \_\_\_\_\_ such as the Sariska wipe-out 15 years ago, it adds to its global standing as a conservation marvel: a populous country that has preserved a lot of its natural heritage even \_\_\_\_\_ (65) \_\_\_\_\_ fast-paced economic growth. Since the majority of the world's wild tigers live in India, there is global attention on the counting exercise and the gaps the \_\_\_\_\_ (66) \_\_\_\_\_ exposes. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has \_\_\_\_\_ (67) \_\_\_\_\_ in its report, 'Status of Tigers in India 2018', that 83% of the big cats censused were individually photographed using camera traps, 87% were confirmed through a camera trap-based capture-recapture technique, and other estimation methods were used to establish the total number. Previous estimates for periods between 2006 and 2010 and then up to 2014 indicated a steady increase in tiger \_\_\_\_\_ (68) \_\_\_\_\_. Such numbers, however, are the subject of debate among sections of the scientific community, mainly on \_\_\_\_\_ (69) \_\_\_\_\_ grounds, since independent studies of even well-protected reserves showed a lower increase. It is important to put all the latest data, which are no doubt encouraging, through \_\_\_\_\_ (70) \_\_\_\_\_ peer review. Conservation achievements — and some failures — can then be the subject of scientific \_\_\_\_\_ (71) \_\_\_\_\_ and find a place in scientific literature to aid efforts to save tigers. There are several aspects to the latest counting operation — a \_\_\_\_\_ (72) \_\_\_\_\_ exercise spread over 3,81,400 sq km and 26,838 camera trap locations — that are of international interest, because some tiger range countries are beginning their own census of the cats. Moreover, even developed countries are trying to revive populations of \_\_\_\_\_ (73) \_\_\_\_\_ wild creatures such as wolves and bears through a more accurate outcome measurement.

- Q64.** (a) problems  
(b) fiascos  
(c) scenarios  
(d) hardships  
(e) issues

- Q65.** (a) among  
(b) between  
(c) surrounded  
(d) engulfed  
(e) amid

**Q66.** (a) statistics  
(b) assessments  
(c) assessment  
(d) studies  
(e) estimate

**Q67.** (a) asserted  
(b) opened  
(c) highlight  
(d) talk  
(e) led

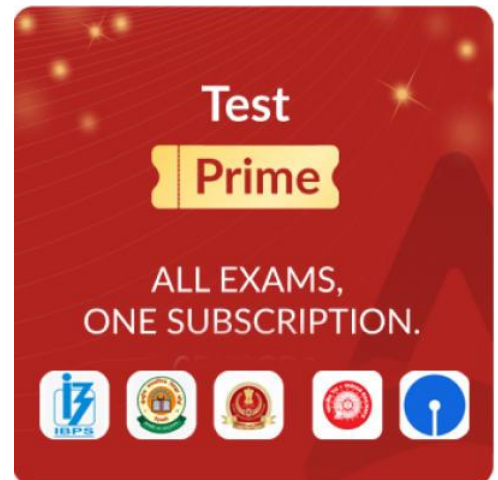
**Q68.** (a) number  
(b) sighting  
(c) reserves  
(d) abundance  
(e) abundant

**Q69.** (a) methodology  
(b) methodological  
(c) methods  
(d) method  
(e) None of these

**Q70.** (a) rigorous  
(b) cruel  
(c) inflexible  
(d) uncompromising  
(e) difficult


**Q71.** (a) glance  
(b) scrutiny  
(c) fixation  
(d) scan  
(e) cursory

**Q72.** (a) futile  
(b) pointless  
(c) unproductive  
(d) nugatory  
(e) staggering



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- Q73.** (a) repellent  
(b) boring  
(c) charismatic  
(d) appalling  
(e) awful

**Directions (74-78):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, four options are given. Find the word which fits the blank most appropriately.

The common blue butterfly could be booming in the UK thanks to recent \_\_\_\_\_ (74) \_\_\_\_\_ of hot weather, according to a conservation charity. Experts are predicting that the July heat wave and Met Office \_\_\_\_\_ (75) \_\_\_\_\_ for above-average temperatures in August might mean that the common blue has its “best ever summer”, Butterfly Conservation said. The butterfly has been \_\_\_\_\_ (76) \_\_\_\_\_ for the last 40 years, according to the charity, but common blue populations increased by 104% in the summer of 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ (77) \_\_\_\_\_ with the previous year, thanks to warm weather. Last summer, overall butterfly numbers were up 110% on 2017 in England and 94% in Wales, according to the charity. The top of the male common blue’s wings are bright blue and unmarked, whereas females have orange crescents and dark spots near the edge of their wings that vary from purple to dark brown, with a \_\_\_\_\_ (78) \_\_\_\_\_ of blue near to the body.

- Q74.** (a) trending  
(b) happenings  
(c) spells  
(d) shortcomings  
(e) All of these

- Q75.** (a) portending  
(b) prophecy  
(c) speculate  
(d) forecasts  
(e) All of these

- Q76.** (a) grappling  
(b) wrestling  
(c) sparring  
(d) fighting  
(e) struggling

- Q77.** (a) related  
(b) compared  
(c) relation  
(d) comparison  
(e) None of these



- Q78.** (a) tinge  
(b) hue  
(c) shade  
(d) tint  
(e) All of these

**Directions (79-88):** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, four options are given. Find the word which fits the blank most appropriately. If none of the four options fits the blank mark 'None of these' as your answer

The Arctic is on fire, hot on the heels of the latest \_\_\_\_\_ (79) \_\_\_\_\_ European heat wave. As the impact of the climate crisis \_\_\_\_\_ (80) \_\_\_\_\_, more and more people are asking: how can we control this beast we have created? The scientific answer is fairly \_\_\_\_\_ (81) \_\_\_\_\_ reduce the amount of greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere to zero. The sooner that's done, the lower the stabilised temperature and the fewer \_\_\_\_\_ (82) \_\_\_\_\_ climate impacts we must face.

The world signed up to this in the Paris agreement, agreeing to "pursue \_\_\_\_\_ (83) \_\_\_\_\_" to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, while committing to keep the rise "well below" 2C. To have just a 50% chance of meeting the 1.5C means halving global \_\_\_\_\_ (84) \_\_\_\_\_ over the next decade and hitting "net zero" emissions by about 2050. That means every sector of every country in the world needs to be, on \_\_\_\_\_ (85) \_\_\_\_\_, zero emissions. That's electricity, transport, industry, farming, the lot.

For many areas of life, near-zero emissions is an \_\_\_\_\_ (86) \_\_\_\_\_, if extremely ambitious, goal. We could refit our homes and use electric-powered transport from low-carbon energy sources. Energy from the sun, wind and waves could power societies worldwide. But there are some areas where zero emissions by 2050 is \_\_\_\_\_ (87) \_\_\_\_\_. There will, for example, always be some emissions from the farming needed to feed more than 10 billion people this century, and there is no sign of \_\_\_\_\_ (88) \_\_\_\_\_ long-haul on an electric plane any time soon.

- Q79.** (a) pleasant  
(b) balmy  
(c) scorching  
(d) hurtful  
(e) harm

- Q80.** (a) increase  
(b) mounts  
(c) manifolds  
(d) manifest  
(e) manifold

- Q81.** (a) straightforward  
(b) evasive  
(c) devious  
(d) insincere  
(e) deceitful

**Q82.** (a) productive  
(b) salubrious  
(c) remedial  
(d) salutary  
(e) devastating

**Q83.** (a) attempt  
(b) endeavour  
(c) seek  
(d) efforts  
(e) strive

**Q84.** (a) overflows  
(b) outrush  
(c) leak  
(d) emissions  
(e) None of these

**Q85.** (a) average  
(b) estimate  
(c) standard  
(d) approximation  
(e) rate

**Q86.** (a) possible  
(b) reachable  
(c) attainable  
(d) realistic  
(e) doable

**Q87.** (a) unbearable  
(b) impossible  
(c) intolerable  
(d) demanding  
(e) unmanageable

**Q88.** (a) airborne  
(b) floating  
(c) flying  
(d) windborne  
(e) None of these



**Directions (89-98):** In the following passage various blanks are given, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, four options are given. Find the word which fits the blank most appropriately. If none of the four options fits the blank mark 'None of these' as your answer.

The climate crisis is damaging the ability of the land to sustain humanity, with \_\_\_\_ (89) \_\_\_\_ risks becoming increasingly severe as global temperatures rise, according to a landmark UN report \_\_\_\_\_ (90) \_\_\_\_\_ by some of the world's top scientists.

Global heating is increasing droughts, soil erosion and wildfires while \_\_\_\_\_ (91) \_\_\_\_\_ crop yields in the tropics and thawing permafrost near the poles, says the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Further heating will lead to \_\_\_\_\_ (92) \_\_\_\_\_ climate conditions at lower latitudes, with potential growth in hunger, migration and conflict and increased damage to the great northern forests.

The report, approved by the world's governments, makes clear that humanity faces a stark choice between a \_\_\_\_\_ (93) \_\_\_\_\_ or virtuous circle. Continued destruction of forests and huge emissions from cattle and other intensive farming practices will intensify the climate crisis, making the impacts on land still worse. However, action now to allow soils and forests to \_\_\_\_ (94) \_\_\_\_\_ and store carbon, and to cut meat consumption by people and food waste, could play a big role in tackling the climate \_\_\_\_\_ (95) \_\_\_\_\_, the report says.

Such moves would also improve human health, reduce poverty and \_\_\_\_\_ (96) \_\_\_\_\_ the huge losses of wildlife across the globe, the IPCC says. Burning of fossil fuels should end as well to avoid "irreversible loss in land ecosystem services required for food, health and habitable settlements", the report says.

"This is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ (97) \_\_\_\_\_," said Dave Reay, a professor at the University of Edinburgh who was an expert reviewer for the IPCC report. "Limited land, an expanding human population, and all wrapped in a \_\_\_\_\_ (98) \_\_\_\_\_ blanket of climate emergency. Earth has never felt smaller, its natural ecosystems never under such direct threat."

- Q89.** (a) increasing  
(b) decreasing  
(c) cascading  
(d) diminishing  
(e) reducing

- Q90.** (a) write  
(b) make  
(c) comprised  
(d) consists  
(e) compiled

- Q91.** (a) diminishing  
(b) diminish  
(c) decrease  
(d) growing  
(e) burgeoning

**Q92.** (a) evitable  
(b) unprecedented  
(c) increasing  
(d) decreasing  
(e) None of these

**Q93.** (a) beneficial  
(b) vicious  
(c) irreproachable  
(d) grimly  
(e) homicidal

**Q94.** (a) degenerate  
(b) degrade  
(c) corrupt  
(d) regenerate  
(e) revitalised

**Q95.** (a) consistencies  
(b) possibility  
(c) crisis  
(d) congruity  
(e) None of these

**Q96.** (a) fights  
(b) hinder  
(c) tackle  
(d) obstruct  
(e) impede

**Q97.** (a) storm  
(b) thunder  
(c) rainfall  
(d) summer  
(e) hailstorm

**Q98.** (a) enveloping  
(b) suffocating  
(c) surrounding  
(d) engulfing  
(e) swaddling



**Directions (99-104):** In the following passage, some of the words have been left out, each of which is indicated by a number. Find the suitable word from the options given against each number and fill up the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningfully complete.

The Wholesale Price Index as a measure of price gains is back in the national \_\_\_\_**(99)**\_\_\_\_. The latest data, which show a sharp \_\_\_\_**(100)**\_\_\_\_ in wholesale inflation in June, to a 54-month high of 5.77%, are a cause for concern. While the WPI is no longer the primary focus in the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-targeting approach to monetary policy formulation — having ceded that role to the Consumer Price Index — the gauge remains economically significant nevertheless. The measure of wholesale price gains is the key \_\_\_\_**(101)**\_\_\_\_ in computing the Index of Industrial Production and is also used to deflate Gross Domestic Product at current prices. A detailed look at WPI data for June \_\_\_\_**(102)**\_\_\_\_ several pressure points warranting closer macro-economic scrutiny. Not only have rising crude oil prices persistently \_\_\_\_**(103)**\_\_\_\_ inflation — by contributing significantly to a 214 basis-points month-on-month jump in June for the primary articles group — they have also led to rapidly accelerating double-digit price \_\_\_\_**(104)**\_\_\_\_ in the fuel and power group.

**Q99.**

- (a) Outrun
- (b) Eager
- (c) Spotlight
- (d) Conclusions
- (e) None of these.

**Q100.**

- (a) Inauspiciousness
- (b) Surge
- (c) Fiscal
- (d) Sufficiency
- (e) None of these.

**Q101.**

- (a) Deflator
- (b) Abroad
- (c) Disappointing
- (d) Enhanced
- (e) None of these.

**Q102.**

- (a) Extenuate
- (b) Tempts
- (c) Learnt
- (d) Reveals
- (e) None of these.

**Q103.**

- (a) Fanned
- (b) Obscure
- (c) Brought
- (d) Begin
- (e) None of these.

**Q104.**

- (a) Fondle
- (b) Consolidate
- (c) Gains
- (d) Reciprocates
- (e) None of these.

## Solutions

**S1. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is '**has**'. The sentence talks about human nature, which refers to the inherent qualities and characteristics of human beings. The word "exploration" is used to describe an activity that humans have engaged in throughout history, such as exploring new territories, ideas, and possibilities. **The word "has" is in the present perfect tense, which indicates an action that began in the past and continues up to the present.** The use of the present perfect tense in this sentence suggests that exploration is an ongoing activity that is still a part of human nature today.

The **option (a)** "was" is in the past tense, which would suggest that exploration was a part of human nature in the past but may not be relevant today.

The **option (c)** "had" is also in the past tense and suggests that exploration was a part of human nature at some point in the past but is no longer relevant.

The **option (d)** "being" is a present participle and is not appropriate for this context.

The **option (e)** "are" is also incorrect because it is present tense and does not convey the ongoing nature of exploration as described in the sentence.

**S2. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is '**ventured**'. The sentence talks about the innate human tendency to explore and seek new experiences, knowledge, and opportunities.

**The word "ventured" means to take a risk or embark on a journey with an uncertain outcome, which accurately reflects the spirit of exploration and the willingness to take chances that the sentence describes.**

The **option (a)** "concerted" means to work together towards a common goal and is not appropriate in this context.

The **option (c)** "insulated" means to protect from outside influence or impact and is the opposite of exploration.

The **option (d)** "retarded" and **option (e)** "hindered" both mean to slow down or impede progress and are not appropriate in this context.

**S3. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is 'it's'.

The sentence talks about the spirit of exploration that has driven human beings to push the boundaries of what is possible, whether exploring the depths of the ocean, the vastness of space, or the uncharted territories of the human mind. **The word "it's" is a contraction of "it is,"** and in this context, it accurately conveys the idea that the spirit of exploration is the driving force behind our exploration of these various frontiers.

The **option (a)** "its" is a possessive pronoun and is not appropriate in this context because it does not convey the necessary meaning.

The **option (b)** "it has" could also be used to convey the same meaning as "it's," but it is less concise and less commonly used in informal writing and speech.

The **option (d)** "it being" and **option (e)** "it had" are not appropriate in this context because they do not convey the necessary meaning and are not commonly used in this type of sentence structure.

**S4. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is 'has driven'. The sentence talks about the spirit of exploration and how it has driven human beings to push the boundaries of what is possible in various frontiers, such as the depths of the ocean, the vastness of space, or the uncharted territories of the human mind. **The phrase "has driven" is in the present perfect tense, which indicates an action that began in the past and continues up to the present.** In this sentence, "has driven" accurately conveys the idea that the spirit of exploration has been a driving force behind human achievement throughout history and continues to be so today.

The **option (a)** "was driving" is in the past continuous tense and suggests that the spirit of exploration was a driving force at a specific point in the past but may not be relevant today.

The **option (b)** "had driven" is in the past perfect tense and suggests that the spirit of exploration was a driving force that led to past achievements, but it may not be relevant today.

The **option (d)** "being drive" is incorrect because it is a present participle and is not appropriate for this context.

The **option (e)** "have driven" is in the present perfect tense, but it does not accurately convey the ongoing nature of the spirit of exploration as described in the sentence.

**S5. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is 'thrill'. The sentence talks about the potential rewards of exploration and how they can be just as great as the risks and challenges. **The word "thrill" means a sudden feeling of excitement or pleasure, which accurately conveys the sense of joy and exhilaration that can come with the discovery or accomplishment that often accompanies exploration.**

The **option (a)** "drill" means to make a hole in something using a drill, and it does not fit the context of the sentence. The **option (b)** "peril" means danger or risk, which is mentioned earlier in the sentence as a potential challenge of exploration.

The **option (c)** "shell" refers to the hard outer covering of certain animals or objects and is not appropriate in this context.

The **option (e)** "shrill" means high-pitched and piercing and does not fit the context of the sentence.

**S6. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct word to fill in the given blank is '**propelling**'. The sentence talks about the driving force behind human progress, which is the spirit of exploration. The word "propelling" means to drive or push forward, which accurately conveys the idea that the spirit of exploration is what motivates and drives human beings toward new frontiers and possibilities.

The **option (a)** "repressing" means to restrain or hold back and does not fit the context of the sentence because it does not convey the idea of moving forward.

The **option (c)** "terminating" means to bring to an end or stop, which is the opposite of what the sentence is trying to convey.

The **option (d)** "relieving" means to alleviate or reduce, which does not fit the context of the sentence. The **option (e)** "quelling" means to suppress or calm, which does not convey the idea of driving forward.

**S7. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Disclose means to reveal something  
Evinced also means to show clearly or to reveal  
Withheld means to hold back or restrain  
Swindled means a fraudulent scheme or action.

Out of the given options only option (a) and (b) fit the blank contextually but option (a) is not grammatically correct. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**S8. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Panacea means solution or remedy for a problem  
Links means a golf course  
Superiority means state of being higher in rank  
Consortium means a combination of financial institutions

None of the given options except option (d) makes the sentence contextually and grammatically correct. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**S9. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Durable means able to withstand wear, pressure, or damage.  
Swift means happening quickly or smoothly.  
Diversified means make more varied.

Hence, option (c) is the only option which makes the sentence both grammatically and contextually correct.

**S10. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Engage means to take part in  
Rejecting means to dismiss  
Foresee means to predict  
Deceive means deliberately making someone believe something that is not true.

So, option (a) is the only option which makes the sentence both grammatically and contextually correct. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.



**S11. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** From the given options, option (b) is the only option which makes the sentence both contextually and grammatically correct.

**S12. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The passage given above discusses that Erode's unique slender turmeric gets a GI tag for its distinctive fragrance and colour. Here, "laden" which means "*heavily loaded or weighed down*" fits perfectly in the given blank as it mentions a market place filled with turmeric bulbs loaded on tables. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Quashed: reject as invalid, especially by legal procedure.

Ladled: serve (soup, stew, or sauce) with a ladle.

Anticipated: regard as probable; expect or predict.

Galvanized: shock or excite (someone) into taking action.

**S13. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Here, from the preceding sentences we can infer that the market hall in Nasiyanur was always filled with famous turmeric of Erode. Therefore, we conclude that "stocked" which means "*have or keep a supply of (a particular product or type or product) available for sale*" is the most suitable answer choice for the given blank. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice. Other options given above do not make a contextually meaningful statement.

Spiked: form into or cover with sharp points.

Confronted: come face to face with (someone) with hostile or argumentative intent.

Incurred: become subject to (something unwelcome or unpleasant) as a result of one's own behaviour or actions.

Shadowed: envelop in shadow; cast a shadow over.

**S14. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Here, only "attended" which means "*be present at (an event, meeting, or function)*" perfectly fits in the given blank. Apart from "attended" no other option perfectly fits in the given blank to make a contextually meaningful statement. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

Rescinded: revoke, cancel, or repeal (a law, order, or agreement).

Fled: run away from a place or situation of danger.

Rebuffed: reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner.

Legitimized: make legitimate.

**S15. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** From the given sentence, we can infer that it mentions that the fragrance of turmeric is spread all across the air. Therefore, "permeates" which means "*spread throughout (something); pervade*" will perfectly fill in the given blank. Hence, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

Eludes: escape from or avoid (a danger, enemy, or pursuer), typically in a skilful or cunning way.

Postulates: suggest or assume the existence, fact, or truth of (something) as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief.

Segregates: set apart from the rest or from each other; isolate or divide.

Perishes: die, especially in a violent or sudden way.

**S16. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Here, “potential” which means “*latent qualities or abilities that may be developed and lead to future success or usefulness*” perfectly fits in the given blank. The given statement mentions the how the GI tag will be beneficial for the traders and farmers. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Unprecedented: never done or known before.

Vulnerable: exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

Disparaging: expressing the opinion that something is of little worth; derogatory.

Frontal: of, at, or directed at the front.

**S17. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** ‘brought’ best suits the purpose as it completely justifies the paragraph.

**Accrued** means be received by someone in regular or increasing amounts over time.

**S18. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** ‘capital’ is the correct word to be replaced as the paragraph revolves around the theme of recapitalization.

**S19. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** ‘addressed’ is the correct word to be replaced.

**Beseched** means ask someone urgently and fervently to do or give something.

**Implored** means beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something.

**S20. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** ‘approach’ is the correct word as the sentence talks about the way the government recapitalised the banks in 1980-1990s.

**Orate** means make a speech, especially pompously or at length.

**Spout** means express (one’s views or ideas) in a lengthy, declamatory, and unreflecting way.

**S21. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** ‘infused’ best suits the purpose as the paragraph is about recapitalization which means infusing the capital in Public sector banks.

**S22. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The correct word that would replace the word given in bold to provide the paragraph a comprehensive context is “unwrapped”. The former part of the sentence has already described that the father had received the gift from her daughter [gift that my daughter presented]. Therefore, the gift must be unwrapped to find what is inside it. All the other words fail to comprehend the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

**S23. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The correct word that should replace the word given in bold should be “snub”. ‘Snub’ is used here as a noun which means an act of rebuffing or ignoring someone or something. It is to be noted that the next sentence of the

paragraph uses the conjunction 'though' to introduce a contrasting statement from what has been mentioned earlier. Thus, as the next sentence expresses "I was happy inside", the earlier sentence can be made coherent with a word expressing a contrast of 'happy'. As, only option (d) perfectly fits grammatically as well as contextually in the paragraph, it becomes the most viable answer choice.

**S24. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** To make the sentence coherent with the outline of the paragraph, replace the word given in bold with 'paltry'. "paltry" is an adjective which is used here to describe the quality of her salary. 'Paltry' means (of an amount) very small or meagre. All the other words fail to adhere with the context of the paragraph. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Stingy means vulnerable means exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.

Substantial means of considerable importance, size, or worth.

**S25. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The given sentence of the paragraph can be corrected by replacing the word given in bold with "averse". It is to be noted that in the article the father has expressed his disliking towards technological gadgets. This can be observed through phrases like [our life had damaged], [would not even spare some moments], [against these modern-day technology]. Thus, the blank should consist of an adjective expressing a disliking towards gadgets. Therefore, 'averse' which means having a strong dislike of or opposition to something is the most appropriate word to replace the word given in bold. Hence, option (a) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

Doting means extremely and uncritically fond of someone; adoring.

Desirous means having or characterized by desire.

**S26. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** To make the paragraph contextually correct, replace the word given in bold with "invasion". 'Invasion' is a noun which means an unwelcome intrusion into another's domain. Thus, it perfectly fits in the context of the paragraph. However, other words fail to find relevance with the theme of the paragraph. Hence, option (d) becomes the most viable answer choice.

Aggression means feelings of anger or antipathy resulting in hostile or violent behaviour; readiness to attack or confront.

Offense means a breach of a law or rule; an illegal act.

**S27. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Pernicious [adjective] means '*having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way*'; *noxious*';

Trivial [adjective] means '*of little value or importance; worthless*';

The paragraph is discussing about how predictable the result for the elections in Ukraine was. And why the winner has an advantage over the losing candidate. The winning candidate is a comedian and the losing candidate was the incumbent President.

The blank seems to be filled by an adjective. Among the given adjectives, the word 'predictable' provides the correct context to the blank.

'What is extraordinary about Sunday's Ukrainian presidential runoff is that it turned out to be so **predictable.**'

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

**S28. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The paragraph is discussing about how predictable the result for the elections in Ukraine was. And why the winner has an advantage over the losing candidate. The winning candidate is a comedian and the losing candidate was the incumbent President.

The blank seems to be filled by a noun. Among the given nouns, the word 'candidacy' provides the correct context to the blank.

'The comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, a rank political outsider until he announced his **candidacy** over New Year's Eve, recorded the expected landslide victory.'

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

**S29. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Incumbent [adjective] means '*necessary for (someone) as a duty or responsibility*';

Egregious [adjective] means '*outstandingly bad; shocking*';

Buoyant [adjective] means '*cheerful and optimistic*';

Effusive [adjective] means '*showing or expressing gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained or heartfelt manner*';

The paragraph is discussing about how predictable the result for the elections in Ukraine was. And why the winner has an advantage over the losing candidate. The winning candidate is a comedian and the losing candidate was the incumbent President.

The comedian defeated the candidate who is currently holding the office.

The blank seems to be filled by an adjective. Among the given adjective, the word 'incumbent' provides the correct context to the blank.

'He had consistently led in the opinion polls, way ahead of **incumbent** President Petro Poroshenko and a former Prime Minister.'

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

**S30. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Jeopardise [verb] means '*put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure*';

The top court has struck down an anti-corruption law which has jeopardised aid flows to Kiev.

Among the given words the word jeopardising provides the correct context to the blank.

'In February, Ukraine's top court struck down an anti-corruption law in a setback for several prosecutions and **jeopardising** aid flows to Kiev.'

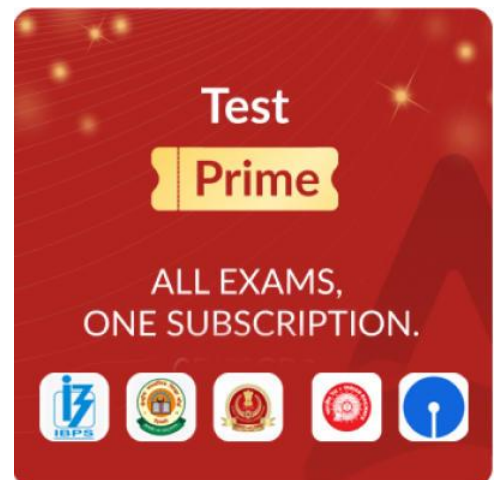
Hence, option (e) is the correct answer.

Pouring [verb] means "*come or go in a steady stream and in large numbers.*"

Worrying [verb] means "*discover or solve something by persistent thought.*"

Perplexing [verb] means "*make (someone) feel completely baffled.*"

Tangling [verb] means "*twist together into a confused mass.*"



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**S31. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Seizure [noun] means 'the action of capturing someone or something using force';

Seizure [noun] means 'the action of capturing someone or something using force';

Nepotism [noun] means 'the practice among those with power or influence of favouring relatives or friends, especially by giving them jobs';

One nation can seize naval vessels of another nation. Among the given words, the word 'seizure' provides the correct context to the blank.

'Since Russia's **seizure** of Ukrainian naval vessels in November, Mr. Poroshenko had pitched his campaign merely on the need to bolster national unity against the threat from Moscow, and assert Ukraine's unique national identity.'

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**S32. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Obliviate- to forget

Flexible- capable of bending easily without breaking.

Tenable-well founded

Timid- showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened.

The phrase, "option to either work from home or the office" used in the line post the blank gives a clue that the idea of flexible timing for the working hours in companies is the topic of discussion.

Hence option (d) is the correct answer choice

**S33. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Abstain- restrain oneself from doing or enjoying something.

Profane- not relating to that which is sacred or religious; secular.

Pertain- be appropriate, related, or applicable to.

Refrain- stop oneself from doing something.

Hence option (c) is the right choice which fits the blank appropriately.

**S34. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Retract- draw or be drawn back or back in.

Contrive- to scheme or to plot

Subsume-to include

adapt fits the blank appropriately so right option choice is (c).

**S35. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Contributor- a person or thing that contributes something.

Demotic- for the common people

Amenable-willing to comply

Bamboozled-make a fool of

The right choice should be (e)

**S36. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Respondents- a person who replies to something, especially one supplying information for a questionnaire or responding to an advertisement.

Concurrence- the fact of two or more events or circumstances happening or existing at the same time.

Preponderances- the quality or fact of being greater in number, quantity, or importance.

**S37. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Outskirts- the outer parts of a town or city.

The phrase, “but how valid is it to place the blame on” used in the line post the bold word gives a clue that someone has to be blamed for some wrongdoing hence “developments” doesn’t fit contextually in the given blank.

Hence option (d) is the correct answer choice

**S38. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Aver- state or assert to be the case.

Nectar- the drink of the gods.

Reoccur- occur again or repeatedly.

The line previous to the given bold word explains that commentators have made some comments regarding the real problem that has caused the lynchings around the country, hence out of the given options “aver” is the appropriate option to replace the given bold word.

Hence option (c) is the right choice which fits the blank appropriately.

**S39. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Succumb (verb)- fail to resist pressure, temptation, or some other negative force.

The given word “advancements” is grammatically incorrect as the phrase, “but its use in India” gives a clue that the correct replacement should be a ‘noun,’ therefore as per the context of the given passage WhatsApp messenger can be considered as a “technology.”

Hence option (c) is the right choice which fits the blank appropriately.

**S40. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Mischievous- causing or showing a fondness for causing trouble in a playful way.

Rebuff- reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner.

Mischief- harm or trouble caused by someone or something.

The line, “users might be responsible, but their usage is not independent of the technology” given after the bold word in the passage conveys the sense of the writer that though the intend of technology is not to cause any harm but it is not totally innocent.

Hence the given bold word is correct contextually and grammatically.

The right answer choice should be option (e)

**S41. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Denigrated- criticize unfairly; disparage.

Embedded- implant (an idea or feeling) so that it becomes ingrained within a particular context.

The given phrase, “indeed, it is often deeply embedded” sounds correct as per the given context of the given passage.

**S42. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** From the given options, only option (c) fits the given blank to make a contextually meaningful sentence remaining options fails to do so. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c)

**S43. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** To get the right filler for the given blank read the sentence following the blank in which it is stated that, ‘to a 54-month high of 5.77%, are a cause for concern’. So, the correct filler for the given blank is ‘Surge’. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (b)

**S44. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** To get the correct answer to the given question, read the sentence following the given blank in which it is stated that, 'and is also used to deflate Gross Domestic Product at current prices' so the appropriate word to fill the given blank would be the one which is synonymous to the word 'Deflate'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (a)

**S45. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Getting cue from the starting of the sentence which is talking about the detailed look at WPI data, the correct filler would be 'Reveals'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (d)

**S46. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Hint for the given filler can be taken from the passage following the given blank in which it is stated that, 'they have also led to rapidly accelerating double-digit price' so the appropriate filler choice would be 'Fanned' hence, the correct answer choice is option (a).

**S47. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** As the last part of the given passage is talking about the rise in the crude oil prices, which will lead to the increase in the price of the fuel, so the correct filler for the given blank will be 'Gains'. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c)

**S48. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** From the given options, only option (b) fits the given blank to make the given sentence grammatically correct, remaining options fail to do so. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (b).

**S49. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** As the given sentence is talking about those who are not included in the NRC and is suggesting the further course of action to them. So, appropriate filler would be 'appeal'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be (a).

**Endure** means remain in existence

**Curtailement** means the action or fact of reducing or restricting something

**S50. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Taking hint from the sentence preceding given sentence, it can be seen that these tribunals are set up to deal with the issue of exclusion from the NRC and are provided with power to declare a person as Indian or Foreigner. So, the appropriate filler for the given blank would be 'authorised'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (d)

**S51. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** To get the correct filler refer the first line of the second paragraph in which it is mentioned that 'The NRC exercise has left almost everyone dismayed'. Here, 'dismayed' means cause (someone) to feel concern and distress. From this we can infer that the appropriate filler for the given blank would be 'Flawed'. Remaining options fails to make the given sentence either grammatically or contextually correct. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (a)

**Delegated** means entrust (a task or responsibility) to another person

**S52. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Taking hint from the use of 'while' which is used when comparing things, situations, or people and showing how they are different. So, the appropriate filler for the given blank would be 'Included'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (b)

**S53. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** To get the correct answer refer to the last line of the same sentence which is talking about the country's poor documentation culture. From this and the given options, we can infer that the appropriate filler would be 'inevitable' which makes the sentence both grammatically and contextually correct. Also, remaining options fails to do so. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (c)

**S54. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Unprecedented refers to something that has never been done or known before. Among the given options, only this option fits the blank most appropriately.

**S55. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** This blank needs a word that resembles 'rough guess' because the sentence is trying to convey '*according to analyst's evaluation or 'estimates'*'.

**S56. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Streak refers to something that happens or is done over a period of time without a break which is exactly what the sentence is trying to convey: that the latest quarter broke the trend that continued in the last four quarters.

**S57. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** While all the three options are synonyms of the word 'participate', only option (b) i.e. *participated* is in the past tense which is what the blank needs because the protest happened on a previous date.

**S58. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** While affect means 'to make a difference to' or 'influence something, effect means 'a change which is a result or consequence of an action or other cause'. Affect means *to have an effect on* making it the most appropriate answer. The other two options are in the past tense and the sentence is in simple present.

**S59. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** 'Taken a hit to' means 'hurt'. What the sentence is trying to say is: 'an increase in operating expenses has hurt revenue/profits/earnings.' Both disbursement and outlay are synonyms for expenditure and hence not appropriate.

**S60. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Brick and mortar is a phrase used to describe existing as a physical building, especially a shop, rather than doing business only on the internet. The sentence is trying to convey that Amazon is trying to match the speed that conventional shopkeepers have because online delivery takes more time. None of the options can hence be appropriately used.



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**S61. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The presence of 'in' makes 'time' and 'times', inappropriate choices. Era can only be used to define a significant period of time and since the following line compares it to another 'quarter', it is the best and most appropriate answer choice.

**S62. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Stem means '*originate in or be caused by*' which is also what the sentence is trying to convey that the profit problem seems to originate from the fact that growth 'is no longer creating the operating leverage it once did'. Rise could also have been a good fit but not raise.

**S63. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Remains to be seen is used to express the notion that something is not yet known making option (b) our best choice. Had there been an 'is' preceding the blank, "left" could also have been a good option.

**S64. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Fiasco is described as a disastrous situation or a complete failure and because the sentence is talking about a particular incident and that too a total 'wipe-out', none of the other options describe it as well as fiasco.

**S65. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The sentence is trying to convey that even while managing fast-paced growth, the country was able to ensure that it does not compromise its natural heritage. Hence we need a word like 'amid' (which means 'in an atmosphere or against a background of') to fill the blank.

**S66. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The sentence is talking about the particular tiger counting exercise hence none of the plural alternatives work. Estimate is guess or rough idea. Hence, assessment is the best answer.

**S67. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The blank is preceded by the word 'has' and hence cannot be followed by the simple present form making highlight, led and talk are not suitable options. The use of the word opened would be neither grammatically nor meaningfully correct. This makes asserted (which means state a fact or belief confidently) the answer.

**S68. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Had number and sighting been in their plural form, they could have been grammatically suitable options and because the passage is talking about tiger population and not the number of tiger reserves, option (c) is also not as suitable. Between abundance which is a noun and abundant which is an adjective, former is meaningful and grammatically correct.

**S69. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Since the blank is followed by the word 'grounds' neither (a) method nor (b) methods are suitable options. Between methodology which is a noun and methodological which is an adjective, the latter is both grammatically and meaningfully correct.

**S70. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Peer Review refers to evaluation of scientific, academic or professional work by others working in the same field. The passage talks about gaps in the assessment and hence it is important to have the data 'thoroughly' reviewed by people in the same field. Hence, option (a) rigorous is the most suitable option.

**S71. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The previous line refers to putting the data through a rigorous evaluation. This line carries forward this meaning and asks the study to be put under critical observation or examination. Out of all the words, only scrutiny provides this meaning and also makes the sentence grammatically correct.

**S72. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** The line continues to refer to the vast expanse of the study. To describe this scale of study, only staggering (which means astonishing) can be used. All futile, pointless, nugatory and unproductive mean the same as useless and hence neither can be our answer.

**S73. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** From a grammatical standpoint, all options are suitable options. But because the sentence talks about wild animals and the efforts to revive them, only charismatic will suitably fill the blank to provide contextual accuracy.

**S74. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** 'Spell' is a short period of time during which something lasts. Trending means something that is currently popular or widely discussed online. It's an adjective and has no plural form. 'Happenings' is not an appropriate word to describe weather patterns. Shortcoming is fault or failure to meet a certain standard. Hence spells is the most appropriate option.

**S75. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** While all the words are near synonyms of each other only 'forecasts' does complete justice to the sentence. Portend refers to a sign or warning that (something, especially something momentous or calamitous) is likely to happen. This word especially in its continuous form does not provide complete meaning to the sentence. Prophecy does mean 'to say that (a specified thing) will happen in the future' but for this word to be used 'Met Office's' should've been given. Speculate means 'to form a theory or conjecture about a subject without firm evidence'. Hence, forecasts is the answer which provides both contextual meaning and grammatical justice to the sentence.

**S76. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Grapple, wrestle, spar and fight all mean the same but none provides any meaning to the sentence. In order to convey their dwindling population in the past 'struggling' is the best choice.

**S77. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Both comparison and relation need to be preceded by 'in' in order to be grammatically suitable options. When we say something has changed with respect to the past, we either use 'compared' or 'in relation with'. Related doesn't help put the two time periods in contrast with each other which the sentence is trying to do. Compared provides both grammatical and contextual meaning to the sentence.

**S78. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** All tinge, hue, shade and tint mean the same i.e. a trace of a colour, in this case blue colour and are all correct both with respect to meaning and grammatical correctness.

**S79. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The passage talks about how the Arctic region was recently grappling with a heatwave that had taken over the entire region. It then goes on to talk about what needs to be done to make things better. It enlists a fairly simple idea of trying to bring down the level of greenhouse emissions.

The second paragraph then talks how the countries had all signed a pact to make efforts to limit global warming and how that translates to maintaining zero emissions by every sector in every country of the world. The final passage talks whether such a goal would be attainable in all areas or not. The first blank is immediately followed by 'European heatwave' which tells us that the blank must be an adjective and definitely not a positive one like balmy or peasant. Hurtful means causing distress to someone's feelings. Between harm and scorching, the latter better describes a heatwave.

**S80. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** 'Crisis' is singular and 'crises' is its plural form. Hence crisis needs to be followed by verbs ending with 's' making increase, manifold and manifest wrong answers. Manifold is an adjective meaning 'many and various'. Mount on the other hand is a verb meaning to gradually increase, rise, or get bigger, making 'mounts' the correct answer.

**S81. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Evasive is an adjective for dodging a question by answering in an indirect manner. Devious again is an adjective defined as 'showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals'. Deceitful means 'guilty of or involving deceit; deceiving or misleading others'. But the word we are looking for has to be the same in meaning as 'simple' and hence, straightforward (which means uncomplicated) is our best choice

**S82. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** All salubrious, salutary, productive and remedial mean 'producing a beneficial effect'. The sentence is talking about bringing down greenhouse gas levels, the lower will be the stabilised temperature and lesser the devastating or disastrous consequences we'll have to face.

**S83. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Both seek and strive are verbs and since pursue itself is a verb, they aren't the correct answers. Since the sentence talks about multiple goals that need to be achieved, both endeavour and attempt are also not correct options. 'To pursue efforts' means to seek or strive to attain (some object, goal etc.) making 'efforts' the correct option.

**S84. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Emissions mean the production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation. Outrush refers simply to a violent outflow. Leak doesn't make grammatical sense while an overflow doesn't make contextual sense.

**S85. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** The sentence talks about halving the emissions for which every sector in every country needs to be producing about zero emissions. Because of the presence of 'on', none of the words approximation, standard, estimate or rate is a suitable option for the blank. Only 'average' provides both grammatical accuracy and meaning to the sentence.

**S86. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The blank is preceded by the article 'an' and hence, only a word beginning with a vowel can fill the blank which is only option (c).

**S87. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** This sentence talks about reaching a particular target which is not something which can be managed or unmanaged, tolerated or not etc. Reaching a target can be easy or difficult or possible or impossible and in this case it is the latter.

**S88. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** In the last sentence it is given: *long-haul on an electric plane any time soon*. Long-haul means for longer time or distance and even if you ignore the phrase you realize that the sentence is trying to convey that there doesn't seem to be any recent chances of flying or going airborne on an electric airplane anytime soon. But because the blank is not preceded by the words 'being' or 'going', neither airborne nor windborne are suitable options. Flying is both grammatically fitting and also provides the required meaning.

**S89. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** This passage talks about how the climate crisis is reducing the available land's ability to sustain humanity. It cites a recent report by the UN, according to which because of climate change, there is an increase in soil erosion and droughts and a simultaneous drop in crop yield. It also states how increasing temperature in future will further lead to hunger, migration and conflict. It then goes on to suggest that bringing down meat consumption and food waste was the need of the hour and also that the practice of burning fossil fuels needed to stop. Cascading can often be used to mean successive. Even if the meaning of this word is not known, method of elimination can be used to see that none of the other options make any sense in the first blank and (c) can easily be marked as an answer.

**S90. Ans.(e)**

**Sol.** Had the first two options been in their past participle forms i.e. written and made respectively, they could have been good alternatives. Comprised means 'consists of' and hence is obviously not the right answer. Compile is a verb that means assembling information collected from other sources in this case which means collected from top scientists.

**S91. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** This line talks about how global heating is having two simultaneous effects, one of increasing soil erosion, droughts and wildfires and the other of decreasing crop yield. The presence of the word 'while' tells us that the word in this blank will be the opposite of 'increasing' as mentioned in the first part of the sentence. It also tells us that the word will also be in its continuous form. Only diminishing is the word which fulfils both the criteria. Burgeoning means beginning to grow or increase rapidly.

**S92. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Evidable means avoidable and unprecedented refers to something that's never been done or known before. Evidable cannot be used because it doesn't provide contextual meaning to the sentence or the paragraph and neither does 'increasing' or 'decreasing'. Unprecedented can be used because then the sentence would mean that further heating will cause climate conditions that no one has ever seen before.

**S93. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** When we look at the words 'stark (which means extreme) choice' we understand that the two choices are on the extreme ends of the spectrum. Virtuous itself means beneficial and hence the other blank can also not be beneficial itself. Even irreproachable means 'flawless'. Homicidal means murderous and hence can't be our answer. The blank also needs to be an adjective which is why even grimly isn't the correct answer. Vicious is the correct answer by process of elimination. The terms virtuous circle and vicious circle are used very often refer to complex chains of events that reinforce themselves through a feedback loop. A virtuous circle has favourable results, while a vicious circle has detrimental results.

**S94. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** The following lines elaborate on the previously mentioned phrase of 'vicious and virtuous cycle'. The immediate next line talks about the vicious cycle and the line with the blank tells us that if we made efforts in time, we can help save the planet. Hence the word in the blank would be a positive one and not 'degenerate' or even 'degrade' or 'corrupt'. The word needs to be in simple present because the action hasn't happened yet. Regenerate is hence, the correct and only answer.

**S95. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** The sentence is suggesting helpful tips that people should adopt in order to tackle climate change. Focus should be on the word 'tackle', hence we know that the blank after climate should not be a positive word like consistencies, possibilities or congruity. Crisis is an appropriate option.

**S96. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** All hinder, obstruct and impede are verbs that mean the same i.e. make it difficult for (someone) to do something or for (something) to happen. Tackle on the other hand means to make determined efforts to deal with (a problem or difficult task) and hence, in this case it is the most appropriate option. Since we are dealing with huge losses (plural), the verb should be sans 's' which is why 'fights' is also incorrect.

**S97. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Perfect storm is actually a phrase which means an especially bad situation caused by a combination of unfavourable circumstances. The next line talks about really bad unfavourable situations which give a hint that it has to be something negative which is difficult to deduce because of the word 'perfect'. But perfect storm sums it up pretty accurately.

**S98. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** The blank is preceded by the article 'a' and not 'an' hence, the answer cannot be engulfing or enveloping. In fact because of the word 'wrapped', even surrounding and swaddling (this also means wrap) would be incorrect answers because the sentence would then look like 'wrapped in a wrapping blanket' which is not right. Suffocating is the best option because not only does it best describe the metaphorical blanket but also makes the whole situation look like a climate emergency.

**S99. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** From the given options, only option (c) fits the given blank to make a contextually meaningful sentence remaining options fails to do so. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c)

**S100. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** To get the right filler for the given blank read the sentence following the blank in which it is stated that, 'to a 54-month high of 5.77%, are a cause for concern'. So, the correct filler for the given blank is 'Surge'. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (b)

**S101. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** To get the correct answer to the given question, read the sentence following the given blank in which it is stated that, 'and is also used to deflate Gross Domestic Product at current prices' so the appropriate word to fill the given blank would be the one which is synonymous to the word 'Deflate'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (a)

**S102. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Getting cue from the starting of the sentence which is talking about the detailed look at WPI data, the correct filler would be 'Reveals'. Hence, the correct answer choice would be option (d)

**S103. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Hint for the given filler can be taken from the passage following the given blank in which it is stated that, 'they have also led to rapidly accelerating double-digit price' so the appropriate filler choice would be 'Fanned' hence, the correct answer choice is option (a).

**S104. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** As the last part of the given passage is talking about the rise in the crude oil prices, which will lead to the increase in the price of the fuel, so the correct filler for the given blank will be 'Gains'. Hence, the correct answer choice is option (c)

