

English Language Proficiency Test

Position: Deputy Secretary
PSC Recruitment (August 2023)

Time: 3 hours

Total Marks: 80

Exam ID#: _____

Section C: Reading Comprehension – (15 Marks)

Q5. Read the following passages and choose the correct answers.

Comprehension 1: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

A central message of modern development economics is the importance of income growth, which means growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In theory, rising GDP creates employment and investment opportunities. As incomes grow in a country where the level of GDP was once low, households, communities, and governments are increasingly able to set aside some funds for the production of things that make for a good life. Today GDP has assumed such a significant place in the development lexicon, that if someone mentions “economic growth”, we know they mean growth in GDP.

With reference to the above passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. *Rising GDP is essential for a country to be developed country*
2. *Rising GDP guarantees a reasonable distribution of income to all households.*

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| a. <i>1 only</i> | c. <i>Both 1 and 2</i> |
| b. <i>2 only</i> | d. <i>Neither 1 nor</i> |

Comprehension 2: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Sugar Maple

The sugar maple is a hard maple tree. It can grow as tall as 100 feet and as wide as 4 feet. The sugar maple is commercially valued for its sap, which is used in making maple syrup. Two northeastern states, Vermont and New York, rank as major producers of maple syrup. In Canada, Quebec’s annual syrup production surpasses 2.5 million gallons. To make pure maple syrup, holes are made in the trunk of the tree at the end of winter or in early spring. The water-like sap seeps through the holes and runs through a plastic spout that is put into the hole. Afterwards, the collected sap is transferred into tubes that are hooked up to a tank kept in the sugar house. Then, the sap goes through the boiling process. Boiling enhances flavour and adds colour to the sap. Once the sugar content of the sap is about 65%–66%, the sap is ready to be strained and marketed. Maple syrup found in supermarkets, however, is usually not pure and has other additives. The colour of pure maple may range from golden honey to light brown. Between 35 to 50 gallons of sap is needed to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup. Also, popular for the strength and finish of its wood, the sugar maple tree has been put to use in furniture, interior woodwork, flooring, and crates.

According to the passage, which of the following periods is ideal for sapping?

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) <i>End of winter or in early spring</i> | (c) <i>End of winter or late spring</i> |
| (b) <i>Beginning of winter or in early spring</i> | (d) <i>Throughout the year</i> |

Comprehension 3: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Technology Commodification

In the immediate future, we will see the increasing commodification of many new technologies—artificial intelligence and robotics, 3D manufacturing, custom made biological and pharmaceutical

products, lethal autonomous weapons and driverless cars. The moral question of how a driverless car will decide between hitting a jaywalker and swerving and damaging the car has often been debated, the answer is both simple- save the human life - and complex. At which angle should the car swerve- just enough to save the jaywalker or more than enough? If the driverless car is in Dublin, who would take the decision? The Irish Government, or the car's original code writer in California, or a software programmer in Hyderabad to whom maintenance is outsourced? If different national jurisdictions have different fine print on prioritising a human life, how will it affect insurance and investment decisions, including transactional ones?

Which of the following statements best reflect the rational, plausible and practical implications that can be derived from the passage given above?

1. *Too much globalization is not in the best interest of any country.*
2. *Modern technologies are increasingly blurring the economic borders.*
3. *Innovation and capital have impinged on the domain of the State.*
4. *Public policy of every country should focus on developing its own supply chains.*
5. *Geopolitics will have to reconcile to many ambiguities and uncertainties.*

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1, 4 and 5 only
b. 1,2,3 and 5 only
c. 2,3 and 5 only
d. 1,2,3,4 and 5

Comprehension 4: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Cities And Climate Change

Our cities are extremely vulnerable to climate change because of large concentrations of populations and poor infrastructure. Moreover, population densities are increasing in them but we have not yet developed the systems to address climate change impacts. Our cities contribute to 65 percent of the GDP, but there are not enough facilities to address the issues of air quality, transport, etc., that are vital to identifying sustainable solutions. We need to involve citizens in city planning and create an ecosystem that meets the needs of the people.

Which of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage given above?

- Our cities need to have well-defined administrative set-up with sufficient autonomy.*
- Ever increasing population densities is a hindrance in our efforts to achieve sustainable development.*
- To maintain and develop our cities we need to adopt sustainability related interventions.*
- Public-private Partnership mode of development is the viable long-term solution for the infrastructure and sustainability problems in India.*

Comprehension 5: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Private Wealth and Public Power

All political systems need to mediate the relationship between private wealth and public power. Those that fail risk a dysfunctional government captured by wealthy interests. Corruption is one symptom of such failure with private willingness-to-pay trumping public goals. Private individuals and business firms pay to get routine services and to get to the head of the bureaucratic queue. They pay to limit their taxes, avoid costly regulations, and obtain contracts at inflated prices. If corruption is endemic, public officials - both bureaucrats and elected officials- may redesign programmes and propose public projects with few public benefits and many opportunities for private profit. Of course, corruption is only one type of government failure. Efforts to promote good governance must be broader than anti-corruption campaigns. Governments may be honest but inefficient because no one has an incentive to work productively, and narrow elites may capture the state and exert excess influence on policy. Bribery may induce the lazy to work hard and permit those not in the inner circle of cronies to obtain

benefits. However, even in such cases, corruption cannot be confined to 'functional' areas. It will be a reasonable response to a harsh reality but, over time, it can facilitate a spiral into an even worse situation.

Consider the following statements

- I. Productivity linked incentives to public/private officials is one of the indicatives of an efficient government.
- II. The governments which fail to focus on the relationship between private wealth and public power are likely to become dysfunctional

Which of the statements given above is/are valid?

- a. Only (I)
- b. Only (II)
- c. Both (I) and (II)
- d. Neither (I) nor (II)

Comprehension 6: (2 x1=2 Marks)

Climate Change Costs

All actions to address climate change ultimately involve costs. Funding is vital in order for countries like India to design and implement adaptation and mitigation plans and projects. The problem is more severe for developing countries like India, which would be one of the hardest hit by climate change, given its need to finance development. Most countries do indeed treat climate change as a real threat and are striving to address it in a more comprehensive and integrated manner with the limited resources at their disposal.

What implications can be drawn from the passage above?

- a. Climate change is a complex issue that requires developing countries to adapt their financial policies
- b. Climate change does not affect developed countries.
- c. Climate change will affect India more than other countries because of its tropical climate
- d. Climate change is not taken seriously by most countries

Comprehension 7: (2x1.5=3 Marks)

Private Wealth and Public Power

Education plays a transformatory role in life, particularly so in this rapidly changing and globalising world. Universities are the custodians of the intellectual capital and promoters of culture and specialised knowledge. Culture is an activity of thought, and receptiveness to beauty and human feelings. A merely well-informed man is only a bore on God's earth. What we should aim at is producing men who possess both culture and expert knowledge. Their expert knowledge will give them a firm ground to start from and their culture will lead them as deep as philosophy and as high as art. Together it will impart meaning to human existence.

On the basis of the above passage the following can be said to be true

- 1. Without acquiring culture, a person's education is not complete
- 2. A society of well-educated people cannot be transformed into a modern society
- 3. It is essential that a society has cultured as well as intellectual people.

Which is/are valid?

- a. I only
- b. II only
- c. I and II only
- d. I and III only

What is the meaning of custodian?

- a. curator
- b. keeper
- c. conservator
- d. guardian
- e. all of the above
- f. none of the above

Section D: Grammar and Language– (10 Marks)

Q6. Match the correct answers from the given choices.

1. Kindly match the collective nouns to the choice of group cases. (0.5 x 4=2 Marks)

| Collective Nouns | Collective Case |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Board | a. A group of experts |
| 2. Crew | b. A group of people with advisory role |
| 3. Gang | c. A group of sailors or dock workers |
| 4. Panel | d. Aircraft and ships personnel |
| | e. Unruly group of people |

2. Kindly match the collective nouns to the choice of group cases. (0.5 x 4=2 Marks)

| Idioms | Meaning |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Sail close to the wind | a. Act within the limits |
| 2. Make a mountain out of a molehill | b. Exaggerating |
| 3. Under the weather | c. Feeling a little sick |
| 4. Off the chain | d. Impossible task |
| | e. Impressive |

3. Kindly match word to the choice of antonyms. (0.5 x 4=2 Marks)

| Word | Antonyms |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Sagacious | a. Stupid |
| 2. Attenuate | b. Strengthened |
| 3. Bawdy | c. Clean |
| 4. Dormant | d. Active |
| | e. Boring |

4. Match the words to their synonym. (0.5 x 4=2 Marks)

| Word | Synonym |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Abrade | a. erode |
| 2. Annihilate | b. obliterate |
| 3. Audacity | c. rude |
| 4. Complacency | d. smugness |
| | e. wretched |

Q7. Attending and hosting feasts are a part of CTA duty, requiring us to know culinary terms. Read the situation statement and choose an answer. (0.5 x 4=2 Marks)

1. *At a donor hosted dinner, donor says "it shall be a la carte". Which type will it be?*
 - a. A same set meals for all
 - b. By choice order from a menu
 - c. A mixture of choice and buffet
 - d. The host's favorites served
 - e. A pot luck type
 - f. None of the above

2. *One of the guests noted the pasta needs to be al dente. Al dente, meaning the pasta needs to be;*
 - a. Very well cooked
 - b. Cooked but still tough when bitten
 - c. Needs condiments to taste
 - d. Fried to crisp
 - e. All of the above
 - f. None of the above

3. *A lady guest asked for a second helping of bisque at a party you hosted. What will you serve her?*
 - a. Dumplings
 - b. Fried pasta
 - c. Potato pancake
 - d. A thick creamy soup
 - e. All of the above
 - f. None of the above

4. *An ambassador complimented the croquette was really delicious. What is the food?*
 - a. Dumplings
 - b. Fried pasta
 - c. Potato pancake
 - d. A thick creamy soup
 - e. All of the above
 - f. None of the above

Section E: General Knowledge - (10 Marks)

Q8. Choose the correct answer from the given options.

1. Who led the Tibetan delegation that signed the so-called '17th Point Agreement' in 1951?

- a. Tsewang Rabden Lukangwa
- b. Wangchuk Deden Shakabpa
- c. Ngabo Ngawang Jigme
- d. Phuntsok Tashi Takla

2. When was the Charter of the Tibetans in Exile adopted?

- a. 01 October 1960
- b. 14 June 1991
- c. 10 December 1989
- d. 30 March 2011

3. "Is Tibet lost forever? No. A thousand times no. Tibet will not die because there is no death for the human spirit." Who stated the above quote?

- a. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- b. Sardar Patel
- c. Ram Manohar Lohia
- d. Jayaprakash Narayan

- 4. When did His Holiness the Dalai Lama issued Guidelines for future Tibet's polity and the basic features of its constitution?**
- 02 September 1960*
 - 24 September 1987*
 - 26 February 1992*
 - 10 March 2011*
- 5. What is the full form of QUAD?**
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue*
 - Quebec Unilateral Agreement Dialogue*
 - Quebec Union Agreement Dossier*
 - Quadrilateral Agreement Dialogue*
- 6. Who is the Chinese foreign Minister who was recently sacked?**
- Wang Yi*
 - Qin Gang*
 - Yang Jiechi*
 - Li Zhaoxing*
- 7. Who was the U.S. Secretary of State who appointed the first U.S Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues?**
- Henry Kissinger*
 - Madeleine Albright*
 - Colin Powell*
 - Warren Christopher*
- 8. Select the correct sequence of Tibetan rulers?**
- Sakya, Rinpungpa, Phagmodrupa, Depa Tsangpa, Gaden Phodrang*
 - Rinpungpa, Sakya, Phagmodrupa, Gaden Phodrang Depa Tsangpa*
 - Gaden Phodrang, Phagmodrupa, Sakya, Depa Tsangpa, Rinpungpa*
 - Sakya, Phagmodrupa, Rinpungpa, Depa Tsangpa, Gaden Phodrang*
- 9. When was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) proclaimed?**
- 02 September 1945*
 - 10 December 1948*
 - 10 March 1959*
 - 02 September 1960*
- 10. Who was the Indian Prime Minister who supported the UN Resolution on Tibet?**
- Lal Bahadur Shastri*
 - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru*
 - Atal Bihari Vajpayee*
 - Manmohan Singh*

∞The End ∞