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English Questions for CLAT Exam

CLAT English Quiz 24

Directions: In this question you are required to choose the correct meaning of the idiom/phrase given in italics in the sentence.

1. This course has many opportunities *down the line*.

- A. Walk further
- B. Along the road
- C. In the future
- D. Driving down the street

2. *Playing it by ear* can cost you in the exams.

- A. act without preparation
- B. to listen carefully
- C. to hear bad news
- D. to get into a fight

3. Before going for the interview, she was *on pins and needles*.

- A. Under the weather
- B. In pain
- C. Relaxed
- D. Tense

4. Mrs. Franklin felt that your joke was *in bad taste*.

- A. Rude or vulgar
- B. Boring
- C. Very funny
- D. Not funny

5. Mom totally *blew a fuse* when I told her I had failed maths.

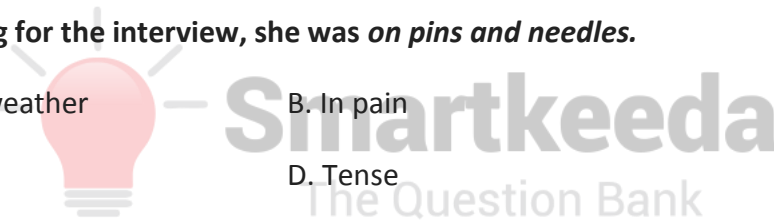
- A. To get tired
- B. To react furiously
- C. To have a headache
- D. To be patient

6. Tim's parents took to his new girlfriend *right off the bat*.

- A. Favorably
- B. Together
- C. Originally
- D. Immediately

7. I graduate in six months, and then it's time to *blow the joint*.

- A. To leave a place
- B. To take drugs
- C. To break off a relation
- D. To separate two stuck objects



8. The last time I saw him, he was *in sackcloth and ashes*.

- A. In dirty clothes
- B. In a state of mourning
- C. Very happy
- D. Wearing cheap clothes

9. Getting independence was *Pyrrhic victory* for Indian people.

- A. A very important victory
- B. A necessary achievement
- C. A defeat
- D. A victory gained at too great a cost.

10. At the sound of the alarm bell, the customers ran *pell-mell* for the doors.

- A. To leave the building
- B. In disorderly confusion
- C. To form a queue
- D. Following orders



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Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	A	D	A	B	D	A	B	D	B

Explanations:

1. Down the line (idiom)

It means in the future.

For example, I do want to get married, but *down the line*, not any time soon.

Hence, **option C** is correct.

2. Play it by ear (idiom)

It means to do something without special preparation.

For example, 'If we go into the meeting unprepared, we'll have to *play everything by ear*.

Hence, **option 'A'** is the correct answer.

3. On pins and needles (idiom)

It means a state of anxiety.

For example, 'I've been *on pins and needles* all day, waiting for you to call with the news.

We were *on pins and needles* until we heard that your plane had landed safely.

Hence, **option 'D'** is the correct answer.

4. In bad taste (idiom)

Another variant: in poor taste (idiom)

It means 'rude; vulgar; obscene.'

For example, We found the play to be *in bad taste*, so we walked out in the middle of the second act.

His attitude towards the girls was *in bad taste*.

Hence, **option A** is the right choice.

5. Blew a fuse (idiom)

It means 'To react furiously or violently to something or someone, to the point of losing control of one's behavior.'

For example, Don't *blow a fuse*, it's just a tiny scratch on the car.

When his paycheck bounced, John *blew a fuse*.

Hence, **option B** is the right choice.



6. Right off the bat (idiom)

Immediately; at once; without delay.

For example, *Right off the bat*, I could tell that the plan had no chance of success.

I managed to have a disagreement with him *right off the bat*.

Hence, **option D** is the right answer.

7. Blow the joint (idiom)

It means 'To leave the place; get out, esp. in a hurry.'

For example, Come on, let's *blow the joint* before there's trouble.

They *blew the joint* about an hour ago.

Hence, **option A** is correct.

8. In sackcloth and ashes (idiom):

in a state of repentance or sorrow; contrite

If you wear sackcloth and ashes, you show by your behaviour that you are very sorry for something you did wrong.

Ex: She would be in sackcloth and ashes for days over every trifling error she made.

I've already apologized. How long must I wear sackcloth and ashes before you'll forgive me?

Hence, **option B** is correct.

9. Pyrrhic victory (idiom):

A victory gained at too great a cost.

Origin: King Pyrrhus of Epirus gained such a victory over the Romans in 279 BC at the battle of Asculum in Apulia. The battle was fought between Pyrrhus' army and the Romans, commanded by Consul Publius Decius Mus. The Epiriotic forces, although they won the battle, suffered severe losses of the elite of their army. The phrase is used to denote a victory that is not worth winning because you have suffered so much to achieve it.

Ex: Winning the case may well prove to be a Pyrrhic victory as the award will not even cover their legal fees.

She won the court case, but it was a Pyrrhic victory because she had to pay so much in legal fees.

Hence, **option D** is right.

10. Pell mell (idiom):

In disorderly confusion; with reckless haste

very fast and not organized

Ex: The papers were strewn pell–mell on the desk.

When the police fired one round in the air, people ran pell-mell.

Hence, **option B** is the correct answer.



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