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Passage No. 127

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given beside.

An AC 3-Tier train ticket on the Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani, under the Tatkal quota, is priced at around Rs. 2,900, where about a third — over Rs. 800 or 28 per cent — is charged as “dynamic pricing”. It is such high pricing that majority of people probably referred to when they voted in LocalCircles’ citizens’ poll.

Tatkal charges are extra charges levied for last minute booking by train passengers and form a part of **dynamic** charges in a ticket.

Tatkal fares have become “excessive”, said almost three-fourth (74 per cent) of the 8,165 people who answered a query on their experience with Tatkal ticket fares on LocalCircles, a citizen interaction platform. Almost one-fifth polled found the charges “reasonable”. Five per cent even found the charges “quite low”.

Almost 80 per cent of people found the ticket cancellation charges high, and desired that such charges on Tatkal tickets be lowered. For seven questions, LocalCircles received votes from over 27,000 participants from over 200 districts. “Railway travellers from Vadodara to Bhubaneswar and from Jammu Tavi to Tirunelveli participated in this survey,” said Sachin Taparia, Founder, LocalCircles.

Almost half of the people who voted were from tier-1 cities, 30 per cent from tier-2 cities and 22 per cent from tier-3 and rural locations. Almost 40 per cent of people who participated in the poll were females.

From the 7,739 people who voted on the question “how has cleanliness of trains and railway stations improved in last 12 months”, about four-fifth felt there was an improvement. Specifically, 39 per cent felt there was marginal improvement, 38 per cent voted for “significant improvement”. Over a fifth (23 per cent) of train customers felt there was no improvement, including five per cent who felt the cleanliness of trains and stations have worsened.

Almost 46 per cent of 8,000-odd people found the food served in trains edible though not delicious, while four per cent found the food catered delicious. 31 per cent said the food was unhygienic or inedible, while 19 per cent were “unsure” about judging the quality of food.

On punctuality of trains, 66 per cent of 8,122 people who took the poll during the last 12 months said the trains were delayed by upto one hour.

There is scope to make the India Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Web site more consumer-oriented and scope to improve food hygiene standards.

Questions:

1. Which among the following is correct regarding the gender-based participation in the survey conducted by LocalCircles regarding the railway services?

- A. There was no participation from females in the survey conducted for giving opinion regarding railway services in India.
- B. There was no participation from males in the survey conducted regarding the services catered by Indian Railways.
- C. There is equal participation from males and females in the survey conducted.
- D. The number of females participating in the survey is less than that of the males who have given response via the survey.
- E. None of the above

2. Which among the following is correct regarding the result of the survey regarding the punctuality of trains run by Indian Railways in the country?

- A. The survey found out that trains are mainly running before time with no margin for being late.
- B. The survey found out that the trains are not running late but they are being made to run late due to certain issues.
- C. The survey found out that the trains are very well on time but only in the foggy days of the year.
- D. The survey found that the trains are not running on time at all especially in the recent months.
- E. None of the above

3. Which among the following is correct regarding the cleanliness in trains run by the Indian Railways, as described in the passage?

- A. Most of the passengers are of the opinion that the cleanliness in trains has deteriorated in the last few months.
- B. Most of the passengers are of the opinion that the cleanliness in trains has improved significantly in the last few months.
- C. Most of the passengers are of the opinion that they cannot comment publicly regarding the cleanliness of trains in India.
- D. Most of the passengers are of the opinion that some kind of improvement has been observed in the level of cleanliness in the trains in the past year.
- E. None of the above

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4. Which among the following is correct regarding the percentage of people who are of the view that the tatkal fares are actually low?

- A. Nobody has given the opinion that the tatkal fares are quite low
- B. Majority of the people is of the view that the tatkal fares are quite low as compared to other countries.
- C. The people are of the opinion that the tatkal fares are very low as compared to the international community but it is high with respect to the society at large.
- D. Hardly 5% people are of the view that the tatkal fares are actually quite low.
- E. None of the above

5. Which among the following is similar in meaning to the word **Dynamic** as used in the passage?

- A. Changing
- B. Energetic
- C. Compelling
- D. Vigorous
- E. None of the above

Correct Answers:



1	2	3	4	5
D	D	D	D	A

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Explanations:

1. Refer to, **“Almost 40 per cent of people who participated in the poll were females.”**

It is clear that the participation of females is less than that of the males in the survey conducted by Local Circles to find out the opinion of the passengers regarding the railways services in the country.

Among the given options, option A is not correct since it does not follow from the passage whereas options B and C can be eliminated based on the same logic. Only option D is correct with reference to the participation of the females in the said survey.

This makes option D the correct choice among the given options.

2. Refer to, **“On punctuality of trains, 66 per cent of 8,122 people who took the poll during the last 12 months said the trains were delayed by upto one hour.”**

It is clear from the above lines that according to the results of the said survey, the trains are now running late as observed and experienced by the passengers.

Among the given options, option D is only correct since others do not follow from the given passage.

This makes option D the correct choice among the given options.

3. Refer to, **“From the 7,739 people who voted on the question “how has cleanliness of trains and railway stations improved in last 12 months”, about four-fifth felt there was an improvement. Specifically, 39 per cent felt there was marginal improvement, 38 per cent voted for “significant improvement”. Over a fifth (23 per cent) of train customers felt there was no improvement, including five per cent who felt the cleanliness of trains and stations have worsened.”**

It is clear from the above lines that most of the people who voted in the survey felt that there is a sense of improvement in the level of cleanliness in the trains run by the Indian Railways whereas very few felt that there was no improvement in the level of cleanliness, rather the same had deteriorated in the past year.

Among the given options, it is very clear that only option D can be considered since it describes the proper results of voting with regard to the cleanliness in the trains run by Indian Railways.

This makes option D the correct choice among the given options.

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4. Refer to, **“Tatkal fares have become “excessive”, said almost three-fourth (74 per cent) of the 8,165 people who answered a query on their experience with Tatkal ticket fares on LocalCircles, a citizen interaction platform. Almost one-fifth polled found the charges “reasonable”. Five per cent even found the charges “quite low”.**

It is quite clear that only 5% candidates have given the opinion that the tatkal fares in the railways are very low.

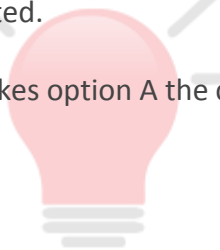
Among the given options, only option D is correct since it gives the correct data regarding the results of the survey.

This makes option D the correct choice among the given options.

5. The word *dynamic* has been used in order to imply that there is a changing component in the pricing of tickets in case of tatkal tickets in the Indian Railways. This forms that changing part of the ticket price.

Among the given options, *changing* means the same as the word used in the passage whereas others are similar in meaning to the given word but not for this given context. Therefore they can be eliminated.

This makes option A the correct choice among the given options.



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