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# Comprehension Test for Bank Exams (IBPS Clerk Pre & SBI Clerk Pre)

## Passage No 13

**Directions: Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.**

The wife of the headman of a village died soon after giving birth to a baby boy. The headman was inconsolable but was persuaded by his family and friends to marry again so that the child would have someone to look after him.

Fortunately, his second wife turned out to be a large-hearted and sensible woman who gave the child all the love and care he would have received from his own mother. In the course of the years she presented the headman with two more sons, but her affection for the oldest never diminished. She treated all three boys alike and the two younger ones never realised they had a step-brother. When the headman passed away, the widow entrusted the responsibilities of the household and the fields to the eldest son and he managed them so well that the family prospered. This made the neighbours **envious**. One day, one of them told the widow's sons the truth about their eldest brother and advised them to drive him away from the house lest he should deprive them of their share of their father's property. The boys shocked at the **revelation** and felt frightened by the prospect of losing their share of the property, decided to murder him. When they told their mother about what they planned to do, she said to them - "**Don't dirty your hands**, I will get rid of him for you."

That night when everybody was asleep, she suddenly jumped out of bed and started shouting; "Snake! Snake!" "Where? Where did you see it, mother?" asked the eldest son, getting up from his mat. "Alas", said the widow. "I saw it disappearing into your stomach." The young man turned pale. From that day on, he lost all appetite for food and would lie on his mat the whole day long. Soon he became so **weak** that he could not even sit up on his mat. The neighbours rejoiced and took advantage of the situation. They built a wall across the widow's courtyard and claimed a part of the

house as their own. In the fields they shifted their boundaries to enclose large portions of the widow's lands.

The younger sons could not deal with the situation and one day they said to their mother; "If our elder brother was not bedridden, such terrible things would not have happened to us." The widow kept quiet, but in the dead of the night she again started shouting; "Snake! Snake!" Everyone woke up. "Where..... where did you see it mother?" asked the eldest son, weakly. "Son, I saw it coming out of your stomach", replied the woman". It disappeared into the darkness. From that day on, the condition of the eldest son started **improving**. Soon he was able to walk into the courtyard where he saw the new wall. "Who has built this!" he thundered. The neighbours came running and meekly pulled down the wall. The following week he went to the family fields and seeing the new boundaries shouted; "Who has done this!". The neighbours trembled in fear and quickly **vacated** the land they had grabbed. The widow and her three sons lived in peace and harmony ever after.

### Questions:

#### 1. Why did the headman marry again?

- A. His family and friends threatened him into a second marriage.
- B. So that his wife could take care of his child.
- C. He was a rich and lonely man and needed someone to share his wealth with.
- D. His wife had made him promise that he would marry again.
- E. He fell in love with a large-hearted and sensible woman who promised to take care of his son.

#### 2. Why were the neighbours envious of the headman's family?

I. The family was prospering and doing well.

II. The headman left his widow wife with three dutiful sons

**III. The widow discriminated between her younger sons.**

- A. Only I      B. Only II      C. Only III      D. Only I and III      E. Only II and III

**3. Which of the following is/are true regarding the widow's sons?**

**I. They thought of murdering their elder brother.**

**II. They were responsible for placing a snake in the house.**

**III. They were envious of their step-brother.**

- A. Only I      B. Only II      C. Only III      D. Only I and III      E. None of these

**4. What does the phrase 'don't dirty your hands' refer to in context with the passage?**

A. Don't work in the fields.

B. Don't make a mess of your hands.

C. Don't soil your hands.

D. Don't get involved.

E. Don't engage in gossip with the neighbours.

**5. How did the neighbours take advantage of the widow?**

A. They invaded into her property and claimed a part of her house as their own.

B. They claimed that her eldest son was possessed by a snake.

C. They destroyed her relationship with the eldest son.

D. They taunted her about the property her husband had left behind.

E. They convinced her to drive her sons away from the house.

**6. Which of the following sentence/s is/are true with reference to the passage?**

**I. The snake really did enter the eldest son's stomach.**

**II. The widow was handicapped without the eldest son.**

**III. The boys helped their mother plot against their step-brother.**

A. Only I      B. Only II      C. Only III      D. Only I and II      E. Neither A, B or C

**7. Why did the widow's sons want to drive their step-brother away from the house?**

A. They felt that their mother loved him the most.

B. They were envious of their step-brother.

C. He was always sickly and having nightmares about snakes.

D. They feared that he would deprive them their share of their father's property.

E. He was bed-ridden and posed as additional responsibility to the family.

**8. How did the widow provoke a change in the eldest son's behaviour?**

**I. She was biased towards her younger sons.**

**II. She made him believe that a snake had entered his body.**

**III. She urged him to get married as advised by the neighbours.**

A. Only I      B. Only II      C. Only III      D. Only I and III      E. Only I and II

**9. According to the passage, who was responsible for a change in the eldest son's behaviour?**

A. The younger brothers.      B. The widow step-mother.      C. The neighbours.

D. The village headman.      E. The actual snake.

**10. Which incident in the passage changed the eldest boy's behaviour?**

- A. The neighbours intruding into his property.
- B. The time when his father the village headman, married again.
- C. The time when his mother expired after giving birth to him.
- D. The incident where the snake came out of his stomach and disappeared into the darkness.
- E. None of these

**11. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word/s printed in BOLD as used in the passage.**

**Vacated**

- A. Sold
- B. Interchanged
- C. Left
- D. Changed
- E. Took

**12. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word/s printed in BOLD as used in the passage.**

**Envious**

- A. Rude
- B. Angry
- C. Cautious
- D. Proud
- E. Jealous

**13. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word/s printed in BOLD as used in the passage.**

**Revelation**

- A. Calling
- B. Disclosure
- C. Testimony
- D. Confession
- E. Announcement

**14. Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning as the word/s printed in BOLD as used in the passage.**

**Weak**

- A. Soft
- B. Energy
- C. Firm
- D. Mild
- E. Strong

**15. Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning as the word/s printed in BOLD as used in the passage.**

**Improving**

A. Reducing

B. Advancing

C. Worsening

D. Increasing

E. Progressing



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**Correct Answers:**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	A	A	D	A	B	D	B	B	D	C	E	B	E

**Explanations:**

1.

Kindly refer to the 2nd sentence of the 1st paragraph.

2.

The answer can be inferred from the last few words of the 4th sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

3.

Kindly refer to the 2nd last sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

4.

As it's clearly evident from the last two sentences of the 2nd paragraph that the lady didn't want her two sons to get involved in murdering their elder brother.

The correct answer, hence, is D.

5.

Kindly refer to the last 3 sentences of the 3rd paragraph.

6.

1st statement is false in the context of the passage.

2nd statement is true as it can be inferred from the last few sentences of the 2nd paragraph and first two sentences of the 3rd paragraph that the widow and her other two sons felt helpless without the eldest son.



3rd statement is false as the widow herself plotted the plan without her other two sons' help.

The answer, hence, is B.

**7.**

Kindly refer to 2nd last sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

**8.**

It can be inferred from the 1st and 2nd paragraphs that it was the widow who actually made her step-son believe that a snake had entered his stomach and after that his behaviour got changed.

The right answer, hence, is B.

**9.**

It can be inferred from the 1st and 2nd paragraphs that it was the widow who actually made her step-son believe that a snake had entered his stomach and after that his behaviour got changed.

The correct answer, hence, is option B.

**10.**

The eldest son's behaviour got changed twice in the story. First when his step-mother made him realise that a snake had entered his body and after that he became sick.

And 2nd time, when she made him believe that she saw the same snake coming out of his body and disappearing into the darkness and after which he regained his health.

But in the given options neither is mentioned. The correct answer, hence, is E.

**11.**

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Vacated' is 'Left'.

**12.**

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Envious' is 'Jealous'.

**13.**

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Revelation' is 'Disclosure'.

**14.**

In the given context, the most opposite word of 'Weak' is 'Strong'.

**15.**

In the given context of the passage, the most opposite word of 'Improving' is 'Worsening'.



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