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Comprehension Test Questions for SBI Clerk Pre, IBPS Clerk Pre, LIC Assistant Pre and IBPS RRB Asst. Pre Exams.

Passage No. 152

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.

United States President Donald Trump's announcement that Washington will withdraw the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) trade status given to India 30 years ago came hours after former diplomat S. Jaishankar assumed office as External Affairs Minister, pointing to the fact that the immediate challenges before him will come from the U.S., and its "great power rivalry" with Russia and China.

Even without the GSP decision, the India-U.S. trade relationship had been under heavy strain for the past year, over what the Washington calls unfair trade restrictions on sale of dairy products and medical equipment, as well as proposed Indian regulations on data localisation and e-commerce companies operating here. Despite several rounds of talks on a comprehensive trade package, there has been no breakthrough, and Mr. Jaishankar will have to work with the new Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to **revive** the talks, possibly when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visits Delhi this month.

On Thursday, the U.S. Special Representative for Iran, Brian Hook, said plainly that the U.S. would sanction, without exception, any country that buys or has bought Iranian oil after the May 2 deadline. While India has not bought Iranian oil since May 2, it is yet to say categorically that it won't, and the new External Affairs Minister is expected to make a clear policy statement on this soon. Russia and China have opposed the sanctions, and are likely to discuss this at the upcoming SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On Friday, a senior State Department official told a group of reporters in Washington, that the U.S. would also bring sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, CAATSA, against India, if it goes ahead with its purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile shield from Russia. The purchase would "preclude" a deep and broad defence relationship with the U.S., the official said. India has announced that it will India get its first Triumf system by October 2020 and the \$5.5 billion contract will be completed by April 2023, and unless the government changes plans, it is set on a **collision** course with the U.S. on the issue.

On Saturday, Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan made it clear that the U.S. wants its partners to join in the ban on Chinese telecommunication company Huawei for its 5G technology. "Huawei is too close to the [Chinese] government," said Mr. Shanahan, speaking at the annual "Shangri-La Dialogue" in Singapore, warning of cybersecurity and intellectual property issues with the company.

Mr. Shanahan's warnings followed a **stark** message from Mr. Pompeo, who said during a visit to Germany on Friday that the U.S. may cut intelligence sharing with countries that choose telecom companies the U.S. doesn't trust. India has thus far declined to ban Huawei from its process for 5G telecommunication network.

Questions :

1. Which among the following is correct regarding the opinion of Russia and China on the sanction imposed by USA on Iran?

- A. Russia is against the sanctions imposed by the USA but China does not want to show that it is going against US ban.
- B. Russia and China both support the sanctions imposed by USA on Iran regarding its trade relations with other countries.
- C. US and China both support Russia but Russia is in favour of Iran on the issue of trade sanctions by the USA.
- D. China and Russia have no say regarding the sanctions imposed by the USA on Iran regarding its trade relations with other countries.
- E. Russia and China support the trade relations of Iran with other countries and they are completely against any kind of sanction by USA.

2. Which among the following is NOT a country that is expected to give a headache to the new External Affairs Minister of India, S Jaishankar, as described in the passage?

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Bulgaria
- E. All the above are going to be causes of concern for India

3. Which among the following is NOT correct regarding the GSP status granted to India by the USA regarding trade relations between the countries?

- A. USA has recently withdrawn the GSP status granted to India regarding its trade relations with the USA.
- B. USA granted the GSP status to India more than two decades ago to show that both are trade partners.
- C. USA not granted GSP status to any other country in the world except India due to the fact that India is its favoured ally.
- D. Both A and C
- E. All A, B and C

4. Which among the following issues has prompted USA to declare that it might invoke the CAATSA Act against India?

- A. India has not decided to give free access to the USA goods to India despite the fact that USA is its ally country.
- B. India imports goods from countries other than the USA for the benefit of price given to it by such countries.
- C. India has decided to import military hardware from Russia and the same is supposed to be delivered by 2023.
- D. India has decided to import oil from countries on which USA has already imposed sanctions for trade relations.
- E. None of the above

5. Which among the following is possible fallout for the countries that decide not to ban Huawei, as announced by USA?

- A. USA is going to cut the diplomatic ties with such countries and all adverse actions will be taken against them.
- B. USA will attack such countries with full military might though they have not done anything wrong.
- C. USA will not import any technology from such countries as Huawei may be spying on such countries.
- D. USA will export all the technology to such countries so that USA base also increases there with time.
- E. USA may decide not to share intelligence inputs with countries that choose to stick to Huawei, the Chinese company.

6. Which among the following correctly defines the stand taken by India regarding its oil imports from Iran?

- A. India has not paid heed to the sanctions imposed by USA and is continuing the imports from Iran.
- B. India has not even bothered to take into consideration the sanctions due to the fact that USA cannot do anything.
- C. India is yet to take a decision regarding its future course of action in this regard though it is complying with the USA sanctions for the time being.
- D. India has made friends with Russia and China and does not want to give any importance to the USA sanctions.
- E. None of the above

7. Which among the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word *STARK* as used in the given passage?

- A. Straightforward
- B. Educated
- C. Organized
- D. Completely
- E. None of the above

8. Which among the following is SIMILAR in meaning to the word *Collision* as used in the passage?

- A. Functional
- B. Clarity
- C. Conflict
- D. Cumbersome
- E. Curious

9. Which among the following is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word *Revive* as used in the passage?

- A. Dissuade
- B. Disappoint
- C. Ruin
- D. Reinvigorate
- E. None of the above

10. Which among the following has / have dictated the decision of the USA to ban Huawei from its territory?

- A. USA does not want Huawei to make profits from its territory whereas USA manufacturers are not able to do anything.
- B. USA does not want to take the chance that foreign manufacturers control the USA market completely instead of the indigenous mobile manufacturers.
- C. USA is in no way related to Huawei and that is why there is no chance that China will attack USA.
- D. USA thinks that cyber-security and Intellectual Property Rights issues are not safely handled by Huawei.
- E. None of the above

Correct Answers :

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



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Explanations:

1. Refer to, **“Russia and China have opposed the sanctions, and are likely to discuss this at the upcoming SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.”**

It is clear from the above lines that Russia and China have decided to support Iran on the issue since they are not with the USA regarding this. The Presidents of both the countries are going to meet India PM Narendra Modi also on the sidelines of the SCO Summit so that he can also be convinced accordingly.

Among the given options, if we need to find out the correct pick, our answer is Option E since it correctly points out the fact Russia and China are against any kind of sanction on Iran by the USA. Other options can be eliminated from consideration since they do not follow from the passage.

This makes Option E the correct choice among the given options.

2. It is very much clear from the passage that Indian External Affairs Minister will have his task cut out to manage the relationship of the country with USA and navigate the country through its rivalry with Russia and China. There is no reference to Bulgaria in the passage.

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

3. Refer to, **“United States President Donald Trump’s announcement that Washington will withdraw the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) trade status given to India 30 years ago came hours after former diplomat S. Jaishankar assumed office as External Affairs Minister,”**

So, Statement A is correct that USA has recently withdrawn the GSP status granted to India and also Statement B is correct for the fact that it was granted more than 30 years ago. Regarding Statement C, there is no such reference that no other country in the world was granted the status except India. Hence it cannot be considered as correct based on the information given in the passage.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

4. Refer to, **“On Friday, a senior State Department official told a group of reporters in Washington, that the U.S. would also bring sanctions under the Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act, CAATSA, against India, if it goes ahead with its purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile shield from Russia.”**

It is clear from the above lines that the CAATSA Act can be invoked against India if it goes ahead with the purchase of the missile shield from Russia. Otherwise there is no other issue as such.

Among the given options, we can see that Option C is our pick since all the others are completely out of context here and some also do not follow from the passage.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

5. Refer to, “Mr. Shanahan’s warnings followed a **stark** message from Mr. Pompeo, who said during a visit to Germany on Friday that the U.S. may cut intelligence sharing with countries that choose telecom companies the U.S. doesn’t trust.”

It is clear from the above lines that USA will take the stern decision of not allowing any intelligence sharing with the countries that decide to continue with mobile manufacturers whom USA doesn’t trust at all.

Among the given options, Option E correctly explains this fact whereas the other options are completely out of context here thereby making them eligible for elimination.

This makes Option E the correct choice among the given options.

6. Refer to, **“While India has not bought Iranian oil since May 2, it is yet to say categorically that it won’t, and the new External Affairs Minister is expected to make a clear policy statement on this soon.”**

It is clear from the above lines that India is yet to take a stern policy decision in this regard though it has not imported any oil from Iran since the deadline of May 2.

Among the given options, Option C perfectly captures the response of India in this regard and this is our pick here whereas all the others can be eliminated from consideration.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

7. The word *stark* has been used in the passage in the sense that the message by the US Secretary of State was straightforward and unequivocal in nature since everybody could understand the meaning of the same. There is nothing hidden in that message.

Among the given words, the easy pick is *straightforward* as explained above whereas all the others can be eliminated from consideration.

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

8. In the given passage, the word *collision* has been used in the sense that India will run into a conflict with the USA if it decides to stick to its programme of import from Russia of the military hardware that is scheduled to reach India by 2023.

Among the given options, only *conflict* is synonymous in meaning to the given word whereas others are not according to the context given. *Cumbersome* means *tedious*.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

9. The word *revive* has been used in the passage in the sense that USA and India will restart the talks between the two countries regarding various issues plaguing the diplomatic relationship between these countries.

Among the given options, *dissuade* refers to *discourage somebody to do something* whereas *reinvigorate* means to *give new energy into something*. *Ruin* is there that will be the perfect antonym to the given word. Others can be eliminated from consideration.

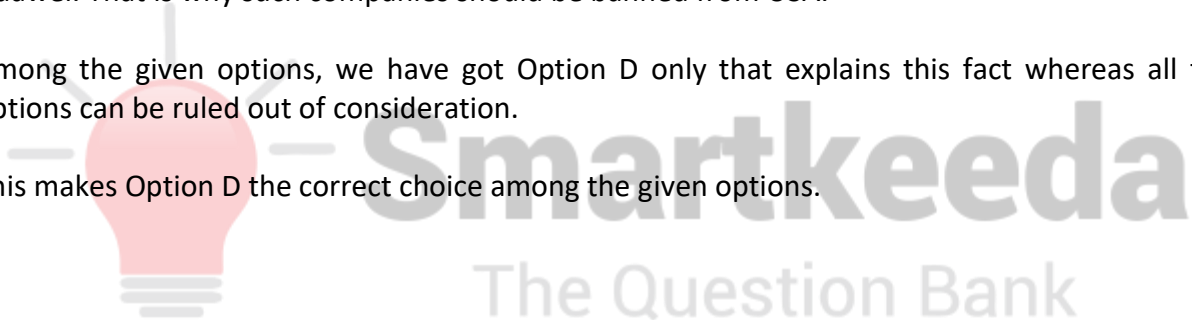
This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

10. Refer to, **“Huawei is too close to the [Chinese] government,” said Mr. Shanahan, speaking at the annual “Shangri-La Dialogue” in Singapore, warning of Cybersecurity and intellectual property issues with the company.”**

It is clear from the above lines that USA authorities are mainly concerned about cyber security and IPR issues since they are of the opinion that such issues are not perfectly handled by the Chinese company Huawei. That is why such companies should be banned from USA.

Among the given options, we have got Option D only that explains this fact whereas all the other options can be ruled out of consideration.

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





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