Comprehension Test Questions for SBI PO Pre, IBPS PO Pre, LIC AAO Pre, SBI Clerk Mains and IBPS Clerk Mains Exams.

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

The Amazon rainforest, the largest of its kind in the world, is ablaze, with over 9,500 distinct fires burning through its main basin since August 15. Overall, Brazil has seen more than 76,000 fires ravage the Amazon in 2019, of which around 10,000 have been started in the past few weeks, mainly by loggers and farmers seeking, as they do during the summer months, to clear vast tracts for agricultural or industrial use. However, this annual exercise of planned deforestation appears to have crossed a tipping point this year. There has been an increase of at least 80% in the number of recorded fires compared to the same period in 2018, according to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE). This week, images of darkening skies above Sao Paulo, more than 2,700 km away from the fires, went viral. The number and intensity of the fires are closely linked to the rate of deforestation. Some reports estimate that in July 2019, the Amazon shrunk by 1,345 sq km, up 39% from the same month last year, and a historical record. The flames are not confined just to Brazil either. In neighbouring Bolivia, deadly blazes are devastating forests and farmlands, so much so, that its President, Evo Morales, has put his re-election campaign on hold over the weekend, and, unlike his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, was quick to welcome foreign aid to help fight the fires.

The distinctly political undertones of the crisis in Brazil sets it apart. Mr Bolsonaro's critics say that his economic and environmental policies have virtually set the stage for intensifying degradation of the Amazon's rich biodiversity. They argue that since he came to power this year, he has chipped away at the protections that the rainforest enjoyed, including by weakening the environment ministry when he made Ricardo Salles, found guilty of administrative improprieties for altering a map to benefit mining companies, the Environment Minister; by driving away Norway and Germany, principal donors who have backed protections for the Amazon; by sacking the head INPE over absurd allegations that he was disclosing how rapidly Amazon deforestation was happening; and by attacking both environmental charities, alleging without proof that they started fires to serve certain foreign interests, and **indigenous** Amazon dwellers. Under intense global pressure, including from the ongoing G-7 meetings of world leaders, Mr. Bolsonaro, a right-wing climate-change sceptic, appears to have relented to an extent, and has authorised 44,000 military troops to help with the firefighting efforts. Even if they succeed, and the Bolsonaro administration ultimately bends to global outrage over the destruction of a critical global ecosystem, the **discernible** shift in Brazilian public institutions responsible for guarding the future of the Amazon rainforest is a worrying sign of worse things to come.

Questions :

1. According to the passage, what is the main cause of Amazon forest fire?

A. Degradation   B. Destruction   C. Deforestation   D. Devastation   E. None of the above

2. As per the passage, what led the Brazilian president to change his tactics in dealing with the fire?

A. Intense global pressure   B. Upcoming elections   C. Support from the UN
D. Support from neighbouring countries   E. None of the above

3. As per critics, what has led to worsen the state of Amazon rainforest?

A. Increased deforestation   B. Economic policies   C. Reduced environmental charities
D. Increased population of local tribes   E. None of the above

4. Which of the following is farthest in meaning from the word discernible?

A. Imperceptible   B. Immobile   C. Vagabond   D. Displaced   E. None of the above

5. What do you mean by the phrase 'virtually set the stage'?

A. To decrease in extent or quantity   B. To ensure probability of occurrence of an event
C. To increase the interest of onlookers   D. To safe keep political secrets
E. None of the above

6. What strengthens the author's argument that Amazon rainforest are in danger?

I. The National Institute for Space Research says its satellite data shows a 80% increase in forest fire on the same period in 2018 compared to 2019.
II. Monthly data shows the scale of the areas cleared has been creeping up since January, but with a spike in July this year - almost 278% higher than in July 2018.
III. The Brazilian president will use UN speech to reject criticism over response to blaze which is ravaging the rainforest.

A. Only I   B. Only II   C. Only I and II   D. Only III   E. None of the above

7. Which of the following weakens the argument that Brazil's administration has failed to bring the situation under control?

I. The fires are emitting large amounts of smoke and carbon along with carbon monoxide, a poisonous element.
II. Brazil has experienced more intense forest fires in the last decade compared to the current blaze.
III. The recent increase in the number of fires in the Amazon is directly related to intentional deforestation and not the result of an extremely dry season.

A. Only I   B. Only II   C. Only I and III   D. Only III   E. None of the above

8. As per the passage, what sets the Bolivian President apart from the Brazilian President?

I. He has welcomed foreign aid to help fight the fires.
II. He has chipped away at the protections that the rainforest enjoyed
III. He has driven away principal donors who wanted to protect the environment.

A. Only I   B. Only II and III   C. Only I and III   D. Only III and I   E. None of the above

9. Which of the following is closest in meaning from the word indigenous?

A. Illicit   B. Compliant   C. Native   D. Conspicuous   E. None of the above

10. Which of the following can be a suitable title to the passage?

A. Earth's burning lungs- the Amazon rainforest fire
B. Deforestation- a cause of global warming
C. Incompetent Government- a lost cause
D. Wildfire- the rapid commercialization of forest land
E. None of the above

Correct Answers :

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

Explanations:

1. Refer to: '…**as they do during the summer months, to clear vast tracts for agricultural or industrial use. However, this annual exercise of planned deforestation appears to have crossed a tipping point this year. There has been an increase of at least 80% in the number of recorded fires compared to the same period in 2018**…'

Deforestation is the main reason for the fires. But other options are not the immediate cause of the fire.

Hence option C is the right answer.

2. Refer to: '**Under intense global pressure**, including from the ongoing G-7 meetings of world leaders, Mr. Bolsonaro, a right-wing climate-change sceptic, **appears to have relented to an extent**.'

Hence option A is the correct choice.

3. Refer to: '**Mr. Bolsonaro's critics say that his economic and environmental policies** have virtually set the stage for intensifying degradation of the Amazon's rich biodiversity.'

Deforestation is the main cause of the fires while it is a mix of economic and environmental policies that have led to worsening the rainforest.

Hence option B is the right answer.

4. *Discernible* means *visible* or *noticeable*.

Immobile means *stationary*.

Vagabond refers to a *wanderer*.

Imperceptible means *something so slight, gradual, or subtle which can not to be perceived easily*.

Thus, the two words are exact opposites of each other.

Hence, option A is the right answer.

5. *To set the stage* means *to make it possible for something else to happen*.

Option B best describes the given phrase. It does not refer to quantity and hence option A is incorrect. The rest of the options also do not make sense.
Hence Option B is the right answer.

6. Both statements I and II provide statistical data in relation to the increasing wildfire in favour of strengthening the argument. Statement III is irrelevant and does not impact the argument in anyway.

Hence option C is the right answer.

7. Statements I and III do not impact the argument in anyway and can be ruled out. Statement II implies that Brazil has seen worse fires in the last decade meaning the current situation is still manageable and has not gone out of hands. However, nowhere is it written it is due to action taken by the administration or some other reason.

Hence, option E is the right choice.

8. Refer to: 'In neighbouring Bolivia, deadly blazes are devastating forests and farmlands, so much so, that its President, Evo Morales, has put his re-election campaign on hold over the weekend, and, **unlike his Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro**, was quick to welcome foreign aid to help fight the fires.'

Only Statement I matches the passage.

Hence option A is the right answer.

9. The word *indigenous* is used to refer to someone who is *local* or *native*.

Native matches this while the rest are absurd,

Hence option C is the right answer.

10. The idea central to the passage is the devastation caused by the forest fire in Amazon which is the largest ecological reserve on Earth.

A would be the apt choice for title as it highlights the importance of the forest by labelling the forest as the 'lungs of earth'.

Hence option A is the right answer.