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

### Passage No. 21

**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.

Amrutananda was a well-known and rich landlord in his village. He and his wife were both cunning and extremely sly. They made a lot of money by cheating and ill-treating their labourers who worked in their fields.

One day, a young man named Manikya came to Amrutananda, asking for work. Amrutananda was pleasantly surprised. No one ever wanted to work for him because of his reputation, and here was someone walking right into his house! Manikya's next few words made him even happier. Manikya said, 'I will work for you for free. You need not pay me a salary, only given me a place to sleep, two sets of clothes and two meals a day.' Amrutananda was filled with Joy when he heard this and was about to agree, when Manikya added, 'I have only one condition: I will tell you the truth always, but one day of the year I will lie to you'. Amrutananda, who lied happily every day of the year, agreed to this **odd** condition. So Manikya joined him. He was a wonderful worker-hardworking and trustworthy. He was very honest and soon became Amrutananda's right hand man. A year went by, and because of Manikya's hard work, Amrutananda had an excellent harvest. He and his wife Mandakini, decided to have a big feast to celebrate. They invited all their relatives and friends, who came from across the village and outside to participate in this celebration. Everyone was looking forward to the delicious feast being planned. On the morning of the feast, Amrutananda decide he would also give away some gifts to his relatives, just so that he could show-off. So he set off for the market in his cart. As soon as he was out of sight, Manikya went running to his mistress, Mandakini. He wept loudly and beat his chest. Then he fell on the floor sobbing, and announced, 'The master is dead.' The cart **overturned** on the road. Our master has been flattened like a Chapatti" As soon as Amrutananda's wife and relatives heard this, they started

wailing. Maniyaka rushed out, saying he would bring back the body, while everyone started preparing for the last rites.

Maniyaka now went running to his master and said “Master! Your wife is dead. My kind, loving mistress is dead. A cobra bit her and she fell to the ground, as blue as the spring sky.” Amrutananda was **stunned**. His beloved Mandakini, his partner in all his schemes, was dead! He couldn’t believe it. He rushed back home shouting her name.

Mandakini was weeping loudly, sitting in the courtyard. When she saw her husband run in, she stopped mid – wail, and Amrutananda too, stood open-mouthed and speechless. Then they fell into each other’s arms, unable to believe their eyes.

At once they turned to Manikya, “What is the meaning of this, Manikya?” his master demanded in a stern voice. Manikya smiled, “Remember my condition, that I would lie only once in a year? Well, I choose today. You see what lies can do? They nearly destroyed your life. Now think about what happens to the people you lie to everyday. Saying this he walked out, leaving behind a stunned and **ashamed** landlord.

### Questions:

#### 1. Why didn’t anyone want to work for Amrutananda?

- A. He always ill-treated and cheated his labourers.
- B. He wanted people to work for him for free.
- C. He never paid their dues on time.
- D. He hardly made them work.
- E. He had too many conditions.

#### 2. Why did Manikya volunteer to work for Amrutananda for free?

- A. His food and shelter would be taken care of. He was fond of Amrutananda.
- B. He was fond of Amrutananda.
- C. He had heard many stories of Amrutanand’s generosity.
- D. He wanted to teach Amrutananda a lesson.

E. He could not find work anywhere else.

**3. What was Manikya's intention for lying to his master?**

- i. He wanted to draw some attention to himself.**
- ii. He was jealous of his master.**
- iii. He wanted to cause trouble during the celebration.**

- A. only 1
- B. only 2 & 3
- C. only 3
- D. only 2
- E. None of these.

**4. What could be an appropriate moral to the story?**

- A. Lying destroys lives
- B. Never employ anyone for free.
- C. Always think before you cry.
- D. Never show lead to tragedy.
- E. Feasts always lead to tragedy.

**5. Which of the following statements is False as inferred from the passage?**

- A. Amrutananda's wife was bitten by a cobra snake.
- B. Manikya was a very hardworking and trustworthy servant.
- C. Amrutananda was known for his shrewdness.
- D. Manikya choose to work for Amrutananda's for free.
- E. Amrutababda's harvest was successful because of Manikya.

**6. On what condition did Manikya agree to stay and work for Amrutananda?**

- A. He would be treated like a family member.
- B. He would be allowed to lie on any one day in the year.
- C. He would leave the day his master, Amrutananda, lied to him.
- D. He would not accept any salary, either in kind or in cash from Amrutananda.
- E. That he could leave whenever he pleased without prior notice.

**7. What important lesson did Amrutananda learn from Manikya?**

- A. To never hire anyone for free.
- B. That hardwork is the only key to success.
- C. To never show off his wealth.
- D. That it is okay to lie for one day of the year.
- E. None of these.

**8. Why did Amrutananda and his wife, Mandakini, wish to have a celebration?**

- A. They wanted to treat Manikya to a feast for his effort in the successful harvest.
- B. They wanted to give Manikya a farewell.
- C. They received a rich harvest and so wanted to have a feast.
- D. They had abundant food and did not know what to do with it.
- E. They wanted to show off their wealth to their neighbours.

**9. Why was Amrutananda's wife crying in the house?**

- A. Nothing was going right during the feast.
- B. Her relatives could not make it for the celebration.
- C. Her best servant, Manikya announced that he was quitting.
- D. She received news that her husband was dead.
- E. .None of these

**10. Which of the following could be an appropriate title for the story?**

- A. The Unfortunate Landlord.
- B. Manikya-the wise labourer.
- C. The Evil Labourer.
- D. The Glorious Feast.
- E. The Feast that turned into a Disaster.

**11. Choose the most SIMILAR meaning: *Overtuned***

- A. Slipped
- B. Rotated
- C. Inverted
- D. Toppled

E. Blocked

**12. Choose the most SIMILAR meaning:***Odd*

- A. Acceptable
- B. Normal
- C. avourable
- D. Unique
- E. Strange

**13. Choose the most SIMILAR meaning:***Stunned*

- A. Shocked
- B. Confused
- C. Doubtful
- D. Hesitant
- E. Scared

**14. Choose the most OPPOSITE meaning:***Cunning*

- A. Pure
- B. Sly
- C. Innocent
- D. Harsh
- E. Superior

**15. Choose the most OPPOSITE meaning:***Ashamed*

- A. Happy
- B. Proud
- C. Grateful
- D. Peaceful
- E. Guilty

**Correct Answers:**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	D	E	A	A	B	E	C	D	B	D	E	A	A	B

**Explanations:**

**1.** They made a lot of money by cheating and ill-treating their labourers who worked in their fields.

Clearly, option A is the right answer.

**2.** ... "Remember my condition, that I would lie only once in a year? Well, I choose today. You see what lies can do? They nearly destroyed your life. Now think about what happens to the people you lie to everyday. Saying this he walked out ... From the last paragraph of the passage it's evident that Manikya wanted to teach Amrutananda a lesson.

Option D hence is the correct answer.

**3.** ... "Remember my condition, that I would lie only once in a year? Well, I choose today. You see what lies can do? They nearly destroyed your life. Now think about what happens to the people you lie to everyday. Saying this he walked out ... It's clear from the last paragraph of the passage that Manikya actually wanted to teach Amrutananda a lesson. All the given statements hence are false.

**4.** ... "Remember my condition, that I would lie only once in a year? Well, I choose today. You see what lies can do? They nearly destroyed your life. Now think about what happens to the people you lie to everyday. Saying this he walked out ... Out of the given choices, the moral of the story would be "Lying destroys lives".

**5.** As per the passage Amrutananda's wife was not bitten by a cobra snake. It was a lie which was intentionally told to Amrutananda by Manikya.

Option A hence is the correct answer.

**6.** ... I have only one condition: I will tell you the truth always, but one day of the year I will lie to you'. ...

Option B hence is the correct answer.

**7.** From Manikya Amrutananda learnt that lying can destroy lives.

Option E hence is the correct answer.

**8.** ... A year went by, and because of Manikya's hard work, Amrutananda had an excellent harvest. He and his wife Mandakini, decided to have a big feast to celebrate. ...

It's clear from the first few sentences of the 3rd paragraph of the passage that Amrutananda and his wife wanted to celebrate because they had an excellent harvest.

Option C hence is the correct answer.

**9.** ... 'The master is dead.' The cart overturned on the road. Our master has been flattened like a Chapatti" As soon as Amrutananda's wife and relatives heard this, they started wailing. ...

Option D is the correct answer.

**10.** Out of the given choices the most appropriate title of the story would be "Manikya-the wise labourer".

Option B hence is the correct answer.

**11. Overturn (verb):** turn over and come to rest upside down.

Ex. "a coach hit a car and it overturned"

Synonyms: capsize, turn turtle, tip over, topple over, turn over, overbalance, turn topsy-turvy, etc.

Option D hence is the correct answer.

**12. Odd (adjective):** different to what is usual or expected; strange.



Ex. "the neighbours thought him very odd"

Synonyms: strange, peculiar, weird, queer, etc.

Option E hence is the correct answer.

**13. Stunned (adjective):** astonished or shocked

Ex. "the community was stunned by the tragedy"

Synonyms: amazed, astonished, startled, dumbfounded, overwhelmed, shocked, etc.

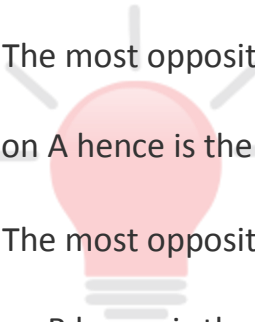
Option A hence is the correct answer.

**14.** The most opposite word to 'Cunning' is 'Pure.'

Option A hence is the correct answer.

**15.** The most opposite word to 'ashamed' is 'proud'.

Option B hence is the correct answer.





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