

CLAT 2020 Test Series Plan

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Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT Exam.

Passage for CLAT Set 7

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

Last winter, I happened to be in one of the remotest corners of India, in a place called Sankri, in Uttarakhand. Sankri is close to Yamunotri, the origin of the river Yamuna. I was visiting Sankri on an invitation from the United Nations Development Programme to meet and orient people from five villages into alternative employment opportunities since their traditional occupation 'agro-pastoralism' had been deeply affected by the region falling under the Govind Pashu Vihar, a protected high-altitude forest, now under the UNDP's snow leopard conservation programme.

As we drove up the narrow, serpentine roads, we saw hydro-electric projects in what was no-man's land until a few years ago. I was completely shocked by the progress the place made, with the snow-capped ranges almost obscured by a number of hotels, cafes and guest houses that have come up in the last few years. The region, they informed me, had recently been discovered by adventure tourism companies as a trekking destination for popular winter treks such as Kedarkantha and Har-ki-Doon. I saw large groups of young people descending on Sankri when other regions like Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh would be effectively closed due to the excessive snow. This is due to the fact that the Sankri trails themselves are largely free of snow, and therefore easier to climb, while the peaks offer fantastic Himalayan panoramas and ample opportunity for the kind of adventure one might boast of on social media.

These operators have scant regard for local cultural sensibilities or the environment and have set up large facilities in collusion with the powers that be in what is essentially a protected tribal area. The employment and revenues generated by **brisk** adventure tourism is going entirely to these companies and their experts brought in from the bigger cities. Thanks to this assault on their property and culture, the locals are left picking up the crumbs as bearers and porters while others maximise profits. Another familiar tale of internal colonialism, some would say. Why I chose to describe it as internal colonialism is because post-independence, Uttarakhand emerged as a state only in the year 2000, its progress hampered by the oppressive decision-making from faraway Lucknow by then. However, when the struggle seemed to be finally over, another class of rulers took over the newly-formed state, even more colonial and insensitive than the earlier masters. Completely driven by their own commercial interests and lack of ideas, the gap between what the people want and what they deliver is much wider than the Yamuna gorges.

A year on, news from Sankri is not very heartening. A road has been approved right up to Osla. The road, not even notified as a forest road but a Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana project, will cut right through the protected zones and bring in hordes of selfie-obsessed thrill-seekers. The rich and the powerful from Delhi, meanwhile, have already gone ahead and secured land deals with the hapless villagers to set up their resorts.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from indianexpress.com, article: The colonisation of Sankri]

1. Why was Sankri a better choice for climbers than Himalayas and Ladakh?

- A. Sankri had better employment opportunities
- B. Sankri had hydro-electric projects and had become progressive
- C. The region had ample number of hotels, cafes and guest houses
- D. Being free of snow it was more comfortable and adventurous

2. Why according to the passage was the author shocked on visiting Sankri?

- A. As Sankri had become a tourist attraction
- B. As the place had gone through a great change
- C. As the region fell under the Govind Pashu Vihar programme
- D. As the author visited the place after a long period of time

3. How according to the author the locals were at a loss?

- A. As their traditional occupation 'agro-pastoralism' was not much profit giving
- B. As the Delhi businesses houses had purchased lands to set resorts there
- C. As a great profit was earned by companies whereas the locals worked at low positions to make their living
- D. None of these

4. Which of the following is the most suitable title of the passage?

- A. The impact of development on Sankri
- B. The adventurous hub Sankri
- C. The seizure of Sankri
- D. The mountain beauty of Uttarakhand

5. What does the word 'brisk' as used in the passage mean?

- A. Reckless
- B. Gloomy and inactive
- C. Lethargic
- D. Active and energetic

Correct Answers

1	2	3	4	5
D	B	C	C	D



Explanations:

1. Being free of snow it was more comfortable and adventurous

From the second paragraph it can be clearly deduced that Sankri was described to be free of snow which made it a better choice for climbers, also it was more adventurous than Himalayas and Ladakh. This is only mentioned in option D.

Hence the answer is option D.

2. As the place had gone through a great change

Option D is totally incorrect.

According to the second paragraph, the author was totally amazed when he saw Sankri being developed, as previously no one lived there, and option B explains this in the most relevant way, whereas option A and C are weak choices.

Hence the answer is option B.

3. As a great profit was earned by companies whereas the locals worked at low positions to make their living

As it is clearly expressed in the third paragraph that the companies used to earn huge revenues from tourism but the locals only worked at low level jobs like porters etc, this is expressed in option C.

Hence the answer is option C.

4. The seizure of Sankri

Option C explains the central idea of the passage whereas the rest of the options tend to be confined to particular topics.

Hence the answer is option C.

5. Active and energetic

The author has used the word for adventure tourism, thus option D explains it in the most relevant way.

Hence the answer is option D.

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