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Cloze Test Ex. 58

Directions: In the following passage ten blanks are left out labelled with letters A, B, C and so on. You have to choose a set of words that is correct grammatically and contextually in order to fill the blank.

The Union Cabinet has approved a series of changes in foreign direct investment norms as the government prepares to enter the last lap of its economic policy-setting phase ahead of the 2019 election. Key among these was the decision to __ A __ up to 49% overseas ownership, including by a foreign airline, in Air India. This comes just a little more than six months after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its nod for a strategic __ B __ of the airline. The relaxation in ownership norms clears the decks for possible bidders such as the Singapore Airlines-Tata combine and Jet Airways — with its overseas equity and route partners — to make a more detailed commercial __ C __ of the investment opportunity the state-owned flag carrier presents. For the fiscally constrained government, the __ D __ couldn't have come sooner. With the Union Budget due soon and the government __ E __ short of its budgeted strategic disinvestment goal for the current financial year — as of end-November, only 28% of the targeted ₹15,000 crore had been realised — the hope must be for an __ F __ timetable for the stake sale. Still, the fulfillment of a necessary condition for a strategic sale doesn't automatically become sufficient grounds for a successful privatisation. Given the carrier's accumulated debt of about ₹50,000 crore and the fact that the interest of potential investors is likely to be focused on Air India's __ G __ long-haul international routes and its fleet of more than 40 wide-bodied aircraft, disinvestment will be neither easy nor guaranteed. At the very least, the government needs to set a distinct, __ H __ road map for the sale process.

The other reform cleared by the Cabinet was the __ I __ decision to put 100% FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading under the 'automatic' route, accompanied by the long-sought relaxation of mandatory local sourcing norms. This had been a major issue with potential investors including Apple, which had repeatedly urged the government to take a more __ J __ view given the level of technological advancement incorporated in its products and the difficulty in finding local sources of supply at the requisite scale.

1. A

- A. give away, encash B. allow, permit C. strategise, authorize D. spurn, promote
E. All of these

2. B

- A. seizure, expropriation B. occupancy, vacancy C. disinvestment, divestment D. destitution, denial
E. All of these

3. C

- A. evaluation, assessment B. opinion, viewpoint C. viability, validity D. aspect, issue
E. All of these

4. D

A. impact, effect
E. All of these

B. verdict, protocol

C. decision, conclusion

D. negotiation, dialogue

5. E

A. woefully, extremely
E. All of these

B. sure, certain

C. fair, definitely

D. merely, slightly

6. F

A. inexpedient, impolitic
E. All of these

B. accelerated, increased

C. sluggish, gradual

D. lethargic, plodding

7. G

A. potentially, likely
E. All of these

B. futile, cost-effective

C. pragmatic, realistic

D. lucrative, fruitful

8. H

A. univocal, vague
E. All of these

B. unequivocal, unambiguous

C. fuzzy, absurd

D. clear, short

9. I

A. eminent, significant
E. All of these

B. essential, pivotal

C. critical, important

D. crucial, vital

10. J

A. concentrated, focused
E. All of these

B. genial, chipper

C. benign, mild

D. lively, brisk

Correct Answers:

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

Explanations :

- 1.** The passage here talks about the government's decision of *allowing* upto 49% private ownership in *centrally owned airlines* Air India. Earlier the centre was having 100% ownership but now it has permitted private airlines to co-own upto 49% ownership in Air India.

Rest of the options except option B do not fit into the context.

Both the words in option B are denoting such authority or permit.

Hence option B is correct.

- 2.** To give away one's ownership is called disinvestment, which is being talked about here. Thus only option C depicts the words that render the similar meaning.

Seizure is to capture something forcefully, which is incontextual.

Destitution means extreme poverty which is illogical.

Option B is also absurd here.

Hence option C is correct.

- 3.** Any investment is done basis some evaluation or estimation of pros and cons related to that specific deal. Thus the correct set of word representing such estimation is option A- evaluation and assessment.

Opinion is just a point of view, which is absurd here.

Similarly validity used in option C is also illogical.

Hence option A is correct.

- 4.** As per the passage, in the given poor economic condition, the decision of disinvestment has come at right time. Earlier economy was not in condition to absorb the change.

Option C that contains words - decision and conclusion is perfectly fitting the blank, where these words refer to decision of disinvestment.

Hence option C is correct.

5. Here the phrase 'short of' describes shortage or deficiency, thus a negative word should come before it.

Option B is grammatically incorrect, as the blank requires an adverb to qualify the shortage.

In option C, the first word fair is grammatically incorrect being an adjective.

Option D renders a positive meaning (little shortage), thus incorrect here.

Both the words of option A renders negative sense and goes well with the given phrase.

Woefully means very badly and extremely also depicts an extreme degree.

Hence option A is correct.

6. As the government is running very far from its target, it would definitely want an enhanced move to abridge the gap. Thus out of all the given options only option B depicts the correct set of words contextually as well as grammatically.

Lethargic means slow.

Sluggish and gradual are also used for delay or slow speed.

Inexpedient means futile, which is absurd.

Hence option B is correct.

7. As per the passage it is clear that the potential investors will focus on the profitable areas, Thus option D which has Lucrative and fruitful means profitable is the perfect choice.

Rest of the options are absurd.

Hence option D is correct.

8. Use of word 'distinct' before the blank clears that it must contain a set of words that means apparent or evident.

Vague (option A) , Fuzzy (option C) means not clear or out of focus.

Short (option D) is absurd to be used here.

Only option B has not the words that mean clear, definite.

Hence option B is correct.

9. Another decision regarding FDI limits that has a great importance in economy has been talked about.

All the options render same meaning i.e. important.

Hence option E is correct.

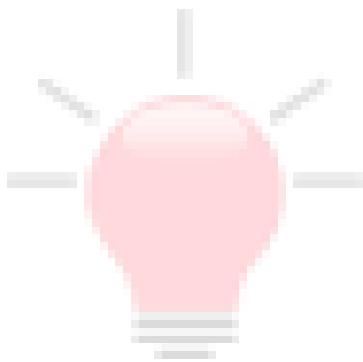
10. Use of "relaxation of mandatory local sourcing norms" depicts that government has shown a mild attitude towards the investors, for which they were asking for long.

Hence the blank should contain words like relaxation, smooth etc. These are represented by option C only.

Genial (option B) and Lively (option D) mean extremely happy.

Option A is absurd.

Hence option C is correct.



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