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# Paragraph Completion Questions Bank Exams (SBI PO Pre, IBPS PO Pre, SBI Clerk Mains, IBPS Clerk Mains and IBPS SO Pre)

## Paragraph Completion Quiz 7

Directions: In each of these questions, a paragraph is given that has a blank in it. Out of the given options, only one fits in with the context of the paragraph. Select that as the answer.

**1. Nine years is perhaps too short a time for deep wounds to heal, but it is enough time to begin to introspect. However, going by the polarised views around the anniversary of the end of Sri Lanka’s civil war, there are few signs of that. For the Tamils who gathered in Mullaitivu district in the Northern Province, it was a day to remember loved ones killed in those savage final days of the war that ended on May 18, 2009. \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Even this year, national leaders saluted the soldiers for their sacrifice, while offering nothing but silence to the civilians who were caught in the conflict.
- B. The two disparate narratives of trauma and triumph can never meet, and in such a context, the chances for fruitfully negotiating this hard-won peace will remain slim.
- C. Time will only make it harder for the two communities to resolve the ethnic division that has outlived the war.
- D. The southern Sinhalese political leadership, on the other hand, makes it a point to celebrate “war heroes” around the same time, hailing their efforts to bring peace.
- E. None of the above

**2. Any incremental spending focus should shift to the construction sector — rural housing and infrastructure. \_\_\_\_\_. Even with a lower share in GDP, it employs more workers than manufacturing.**

- A. In addition, the labour force used in construction is largely unskilled or semi-skilled.
- B. Higher allocation and steps to boost this sector are needed as it is likeliest to absorb labour after agriculture.
- C. This is a key characteristic of the rural labour force.
- D. These measures will make good economic and political sense.
- E. None of the above

**3. Surprisingly, the Survey is not too concerned about surplus financial savings flowing out from banks to the capital market. \_\_\_\_\_ . A concern everywhere now is that as the market appears to be overvalued and is due for a correction. This could lead to significant losses for households that have moved to such riskier avenues to earn higher returns relative to deposit rates which are falling.**

- A. This is interesting because at present, our investment and savings rates are both declining.
- B. Anecdotally, a high current account deficit can create a different set of problem when savings trails investment.
- C. This has been taken to be a positive fallout of demonetisation where funds have been directed to the market.
- D. Now, these returns are linked to interest rates prevailing in the banking system.
- E. None of the above

**4. Demonetisation and GST have definitely added transparency to the tax system and resulted in more taxpayers. \_\_\_\_\_. Otherwise there is no explanation for lower GDP growth in FY17 and FY18 as monsoons have been good, inflation low, crude oil price benign, CAD low, fiscal balances under control, rupee stronger, foreign flows higher and interest rates lower.**

- A. The Government should set realistic and credible fiscal targets for FY19 rather than target a low number which cannot be achieved.
- B. GDP growth in FY16 was 8 per cent which came down to 7.1 per cent in FY17 and could go up to 6.75 per cent in FY18 and say, 7.5 per cent in FY19.
- C. But the disruption caused to small businesses and agriculture has been significant.
- D. Major reforms undertaken by the Government have cleansed the system for sure and made it more efficient.
- E. None of the above

**5. As Frederick Nietzsche said, there are no facts, only interpretations. This would just about be the case when one reads the Economic Survey for FY18. \_\_\_\_\_ Hence, the so-called facts are available to all but the conclusions drawn change after reading the report.**

- A. The Survey is a detailed update on all aspects of the economy and does not work with data which is not known.
- B. The Survey is evidently sanguine about the future to the extent of being gung-ho provided some glitches are addressed with expediency.
- C. The Survey takes the unconventional route of interpreting inflation on an average basis and arguing that CPI of 3.3 per cent for the first 9 months is lower than the 4 per cent target.
- D. It does turn around several views which were held before the report came out.
- E. None of the above

**6. "Women hold up half the sky," Mao Zedong used to say. They also hold up 41% of China's GDP, the biggest share in the Asia-Pacific, says a new report by the McKinsey Global Institute. \_\_\_\_\_ . In Japan the percentage of women in the labour force has increased quickly in the past ten years; in the Philippines, 142 women hold professional or technical jobs for every 100 men; China boasts 114 of the world's 147 female, self-made billionaires.**

- A. China could add 13% to its GDP by 2025 if it increased women's employment and productivity as quickly as the leading countries in its region or peer group.
- B. But economic progress and female employment do not necessarily move in tandem.
- C. It also finds quite impressive signs of progress in many countries.
- D. Some of their chores may be left undone or be left to men (which is often the same thing).
- E. None of the above

**7. The Great Barrier Reef, which runs for 2,300 km along the coast of Queensland, is one of the icons of environmentalism. Conservationists constantly worry that human activity, particularly greenhouse-gas-induced global warming, will harm or even destroy it. Such fears are not foolish, but they do reflect a view of the reef's permanence that is at variance with the truth. \_\_\_\_\_ —a fact lamented in the songs, tales and dances of indigenous people living along the coast, which speak of homelands being drowned by incoming waters.**

- A. Two early reefs were destroyed by exposure as sea levels fell.
- B. For, a mere 10,000 years ago, the coral-covered seabed that now forms the Great Barrier Reef was dry land.
- C. The reality of the Great Barrier Reef's existence is that it is a movable feast.
- D. It is called bleaching and involves the tiny animals, known as polyps, which are the living part of a reef, ejecting their symbiotic algae.
- E. None of the above

**8. That human beings often continue to pour money into bad projects because they have already invested in them and cannot bring themselves to lose that investment is well known. Indeed the Sunk Cost Fallacy, as this phenomenon is called, is frequently cited as an example of people failing to behave in the "rational" way that classical economics suggests they should. Though the exact psychological underpinning of the sunk-cost fallacy is debated, it might reasonably be expected to apply only when the person displaying it also made the original investment. \_\_\_\_\_ . In making decisions, people may also take into account the sunk costs of others.**

- A. However a study published recently suggests this is not true.
- B. It is even more strongly applicable if the time frame is long term in nature.
- C. A possible explanation for the same is that social signaling is involved in such cases.
- D. The sunk-cost phenomenon shapes human behaviour much more broadly than was previously thought.

E. None of the above

**9. Much of the medical research conducted on HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, looks at patients' blood. This is no surprise. \_\_\_\_\_ . But HIV is not confined to the bloodstreams of those infected by it. It is found in almost all of their bodily tissues.**

- A. Focusing only on the metaphorical "trees" of the blood is a mistake.
- B. Blood is both easy to collect and easy to preserve.
- C. HIV's genes and proteins start to degrade within four hours of a patient's death.
- D. It is a retrovirus, meaning that it integrates its genes into its host's DNA.
- E. None of the above

**10. It takes a lot of oomph to launch a satellite into space. \_\_\_\_\_ . The rocket's motors account for some of the rest, but the bulk of it consists of the propellants and the gubbins needed to handle these propellants (tanks, pumps, valves, piping and the bodywork that contains them).**

- A. This is exactly what those behind what they call the "autophage" rocket hope to achieve.
- B. At launch, the engine will sit at the base of this cylinder, but by the time the craft reaches orbit, it will have consumed the rocket's structure.
- C. The fuel and oxidant that react to produce the thrust required to reach orbit.
- D. Typically, the payload represents only about 5% of the mass of a rocket as it leaves the launch pad.
- E. None of the above

**Correct Answers:**

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>10</b> |
| D        | B        | C        | C        | A        | C        | B        | A        | B        | D         |

## Explanations:

**1.** The original passage talks about Sri Lanka's civil war that ended in 2009. The second statement talks about 'polarized views' and hints at two different viewpoints. The third statement talks about one of the views and hence ideally, the blank should be the other side of the coin.

Options A and C can be eliminated as they go off topic.

Option B talks about 'two narratives' but the second one has not yet been stated and is hence incorrect.

Option D is correct clearly as it conveys the opposing viewpoint.

Hence, option D is correct.

**2.** The original passage talks about spending more on the construction sector. The statement after the blank continues in terms of the positive tone and states a reason for spending more on this sector. Thus, we need a statement that justifies spending more on construction.

Option A is incorrect as the phrase *in addition* implies a reason has already been given before but this is not the case here.

Option C is incorrect as the '*this*' being referred to here is not mentioned before. Option D is incorrect as '*these*' implies multiple and there are no such measures mentioned anywhere.

Option B is correct. It connects with the previous sentence due to use of the words 'this sector' and also matches well with the following sentence.

Hence, option B is correct.

**3.** The statement before the blank talks about the Survey not being too concerned about a large number of people moving towards capital markets. Ideally, the next statement should provide a reason for the same. We look for something that is positive in tone.

Option A is incorrect as this goes against the information given in the passage about people moving towards capital markets (increasing investments).

Option B is incorrect as it talks about a completely different topic having no bearing to the current one.

Option D is incorrect as if people have been moving away from the banks, returns would not be linked to the banking system.

Option C is a perfect fit. It continues the previous statement by providing a reason for people moving towards capital markets.

Hence, option C is correct.

**4.** The statement before the blank talks positively about *Demonetisation and GST*. However, the one after the blank is negative in tone and tries to justify the lower GDP numbers. We need to find a statement that 'bridges' the gap between the two perspectives.

Option A is incorrect as it talks about fiscal deficit but this does not provide a valid reason for low GDP numbers.

Option B is incorrect as it merely states some facts regarding GDP numbers but does not provide a contradicting viewpoint.

Option D is incorrect as it is positive in nature and matches with the statement before the blank but not the one after it.

Option C is correct as this provides a different viewpoint and a possible reason for the low GDP numbers.

Hence, option C is correct.

**5.** The passage begins by stating that there can be different explanations for the same event and then connects this with the Economic Survey. The line after the blank talks about how different conclusions may be drawn from the same facts.

Option B is incorrect as it talks about the Survey being very positive in tone. But this tone does not match with the rest of the passage and can be eliminated.

Option C is incorrect as the main theme here is inflation which has not been followed in the next line.

Option D is incorrect as it does not match with the statement that follows the blank. The 'it' and the 'report' are vague and mismatched.

Option A fits in well. It states that the survey uses facts which are common knowledge. This matches well with the next statement and the overall theme of the passage.

Hence, option A is correct.

**6.** The lines before the blank talk about China while the ones after the blank talk about other nations.

Option A can be eliminated as it continues to talk about China and matches with the previous lines but not the lines after the blank.

Option B is incorrect as its tone and context are opposite to what has been stated in the passage.

Option D is incorrect as it is completely off topic.

Option C is correct. It introduces a different angle that fits in with the lines after the blank while the use of 'also' makes it suitable as a bridge, fitting well with the previous lines.

Hence, option C is correct.

**7.** The line before the blank talks about the 'fears and worries' being different from the 'actual reality'. This indicates that the blank should ideally have a contradictory point.

Options C and D do not make sense and can clearly be eliminated.

Option A is incorrect as the line after the blank states that homelands were 'drowned by incoming waters' while this options talks about water levels falling.

Only option B fits in well and maintains the contiguity of the passage.

Hence, option B is correct.

**8.** The line before the blank states that the *Sunk Cost Fallacy* applies only when 'the person displaying it also made the original investment'. The line after the blank changes that opinion and states that 'people may also take into account the sunk costs of others'. We need a statement that bridges the gap between the two.

Options B and C can be easily eliminated as both do not make sense in the passage.

Out of options A and D, D is incorrect as it merely elaborates on how the phenomenon affects the human behavior more than what was imagined before. It does not provide for an appropriate bridge statement.

Option A is correct here. It introduces the notion that what was previously thought may not be true as per new studies.

Hence, option A is correct.

**9.** The word 'but' after the blank indicates that the correct blank should state a contradicting point. This eliminates option A.

Option C is incorrect as this talks about HIV genes etc while the previous and next statement focus on *blood*.

Out of options B and D, B is a better fit as it maintains the continuity of the passage and elaborates on why it is not a surprise that the research conducted on HIV focuses on the blood.

Hence, option B is correct.



**10.** The first line talks about how it takes effort to launch a rocket. The line after the blank talks about ***accounting for some of the 'rest'***. We need to find a line that gives meaning to this phrase.

Option A can be eliminated as 'they', 'hope to achieve' etc do not go with the context.

Option B is incorrect as it distorts the continuity of the passage and takes it in a different direction.

Option C is also incorrect for the same reason.

Option D is correct. The 'mass' being talked about here is the 'rest' mentioned in the next statement.

Hence, option D is correct.



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